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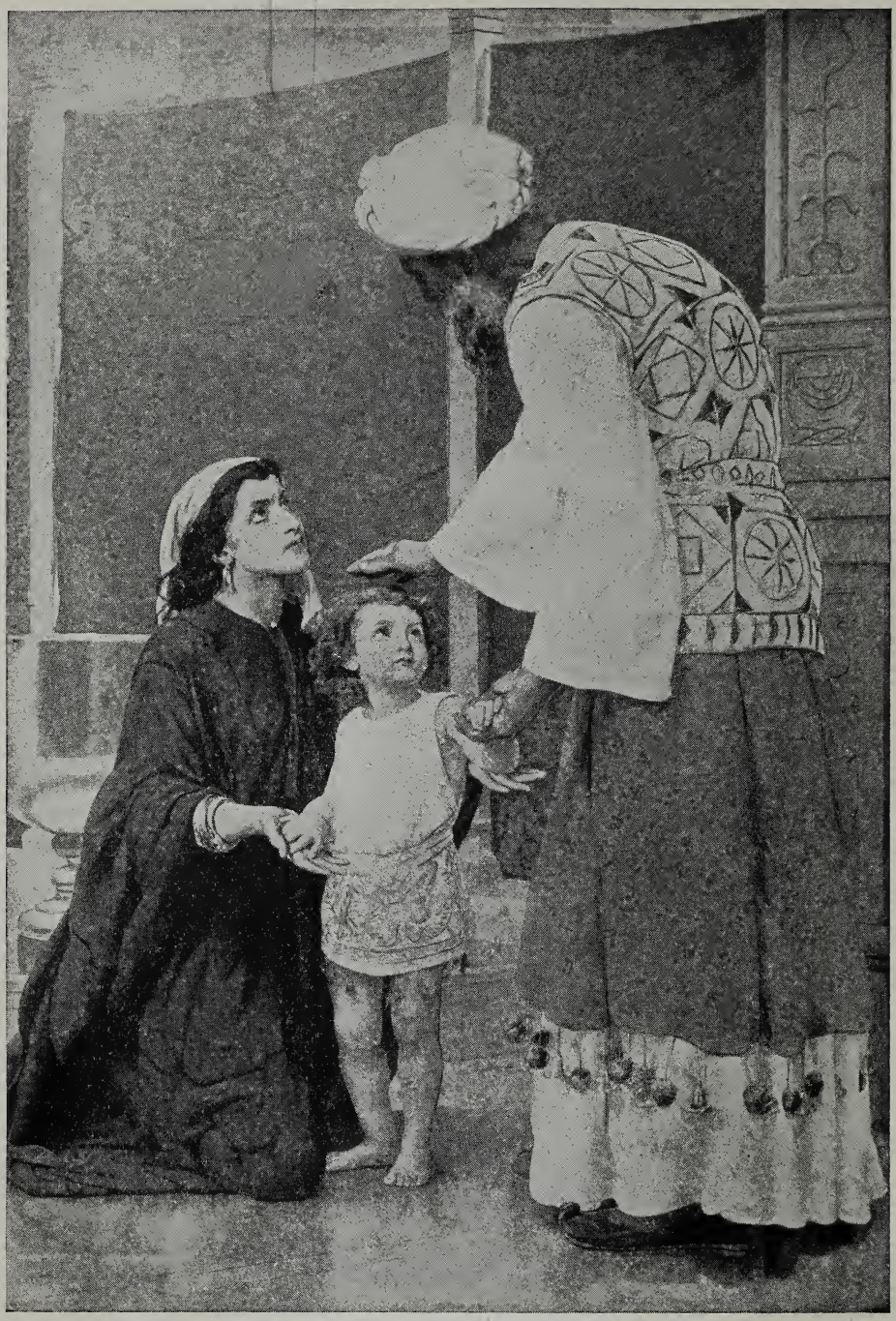

The Dedication of Samuel

Fr. Frank W. W. Topham, R.I.

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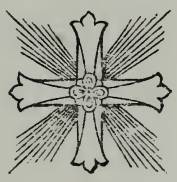
BY

R. BRIMLEY JOHNSON

AUTHOR OF
"TENNYSON AND HIS POETRY" "TALES FROM CHAUCER" ETC.



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PREFACE

I HAVE *not* attempted, in the following pages, to tell the stories of the Bible 'in my own words.' My aim has been, on the other hand, to retain—so far as possible—the actual words of the original, consistently with clearness and simplicity. Children will gain much from the beauty and dignity of language which characterizes our Authorized Version; and no more is needed to secure their absorbed interest in the narrative than to select, to arrange, and to alter a few words. The flavour of antiquity in phrase will neither affront nor puzzle them: it may even attract.

It should be remembered, moreover, that this is a collection of stories *to be told to children* (not necessarily to be read aloud), and the teacher will naturally use his, or her, own judgment in presenting the material so as best to interest and help any particular class. He will amplify, or still further simplify, if he thinks right.

There is obviously much in the Bible which is not suitable for young people, and which could only set them against the priceless material it contains, entirely fitted to their comprehension and enjoyment. I have used every passage

which forms a story, or even an episode, introducing Scriptural characters with which every child should be familiar. The book therefore provides a continuous history of the Chosen People, and of Christ's life on earth.

R. Brimley Johnson

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STORIES FOR THE BIBLE HOUR

I. THE OLD TESTAMENT

MAN'S CREATION AND FALL

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

IN the beginning God made the heaven and the earth. God called the light Day; and the darkness He called Night. He made the heaven which divided the waters which were under the heaven from the waters that were above the heaven: He called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters he called Seas; and God said: "Let the earth bring forth grass, herbs, and fruit trees, after their kind." Then He made two lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; and the stars also. And God said: "Let the waters bring forth the moving creature that has life and the fowl that may fly above the earth in the open heaven: and let the earth bring forth the living creatures after their kind; cattle and creeping thing, and beast of the earth."

Then God made man, out of the dust of the earth, in His own likeness, and gave him power over all the earth, and over everything that moved upon the earth. He planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom

He had made. Out of the ground He made to grow every tree that is beautiful, and good for food; also the Tree of Life in the middle of the garden, and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. There were four rivers in the garden.

God called the man Adam: and He said unto him: "Thou shalt eat freely of every tree in the garden: only the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil thou shalt not eat." And He brought all the cattle, the fowl, and the creeping things to Adam, to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called every living thing, that was its name.

Then God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone; behold, I will make a helpmeet for him." So He caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept. And He took out one of the man's ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. And He made the rib into a woman, and brought her to the man. Adam called her Eve.

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which God had made, and he said to the woman: "God has said you shall not eat of every tree in the garden." But she answered: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, only God said, 'You shall not eat the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

And the serpent said unto Eve: "You shall not die. For God knows that on the day you eat of the fruit of the tree your eyes shall be opened and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was beautiful,

and a tree to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and ate it. She gave also to her husband, and he ate with her.

Then when they heard the voice of God, walking in the garden in the cool of the day, Adam and Eve hid themselves among the trees from the presence of God. And God called to Adam, and said: "Where art thou?" And he said: "I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid."

And He said: "Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee not to eat?" And the man said: "The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me the fruit of the tree, and I did eat." And God said to Eve: "What is this that thou hast done?" And she answered: "The serpent deceived me and I did eat." Then God said to the serpent: "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field. Thou shalt crawl upon the earth and eat dust all the days of thy life."

Unto Eve He said: "Thou shalt be a servant to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." And unto Adam: "Because thou hast listened to thy wife, and eaten of the tree, all thy days shalt thou labour upon the earth until thou return unto it. For dust thou art and to dust shalt thou return."

Then God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden, that Adam might dig up the ground from which he was taken. And at the gate of Eden He placed cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, so that no man should enter the garden.

CAIN AND ABEL

Now Adam had two sons, named Cain and Abel. Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And it came to pass that Cain brought an offering to God from the fruits of the earth. Also Abel brought the firstlings of his flock, and the fat thereof. And the Lord blessed Abel and his offering. But Cain's offering He would not bless.

Then was Cain very angry, and his face fell. But God said: "Why art thou angry, and why is thy face fallen? If thou doest well, thou shalt be blessed; and if thou doest not well, the sin is thine."

Then Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him.

And God said to Cain: "Where is Abel thy brother?" And he said: "I know not. Am I my brother's keeper?"

And God said: "What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood is calling to me from the ground. And now thou art cursed from the earth, which has opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand. Henceforth when thou diggest the earth it shall not bear fruit. Thou shalt be a fugitive and a vagabond on the face of the earth."

And Cain said unto the Lord: "My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, Thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth and from Thy face shall I be hid. I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond upon the

earth, and it will come to pass that whosoever findeth me will slay me."

And God said: "Behold, I will take vengeance, sevenfold, upon whoever shall slay Cain." And He set a mark upon Cain, so that no one who found him should slay him.

And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in Nod, that was east of Eden. Among his children were Jabal, who was the father of such as dwell in tents and of such as have cattle; and Jubal, who was the father of all such as handle the harp and the organ; and Tubal-cain, who was a teacher of every artificer in brass and iron.

NOAH AND THE RAINBOW

Now it came to pass that God found all men were grown corrupt, and the whole earth was filled with violence through them. Their wickedness was great, and every imagination of their hearts was only evil continually. Therefore God grieved over them, and determined to destroy them. Only Noah, the son of Lamech, found grace in His eyes.

So God said unto Noah: "Behold, I will now destroy all men and bring a flood of waters upon the earth; and everything that is in the earth shall die. Do thou, therefore, make for thyself an ark of gopher wood, covered within and without with pitch. The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits,[1] the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty

[1] Cubit = 18 to 22 inches.

cubits. Thou shalt make the ark with lower, second, and third stories, and with rooms in it. The door shall be set in the side thereof, with a window above.

"Then come thou and all thy house into the ark; thy sons and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee; because I have found thee righteous. Thou shalt take also the male and female of every clean beast, by sevens; and of beasts that are not clean, by twos: every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, and every bird of every sort."

Thus did Noah, according to all that God commanded him. And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. In the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, were the fountains of the great deep let loose, and the windows of heaven were opened. Then entered Noah; and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark. Also there went in with him two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life; even as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

And the rain was upon the earth forty days and nights. And the waters increased, and lifted up the ark above the earth so that it went upon the face of the waters; and all the high hills that were under the whole heaven were covered. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, and every living substance was destroyed

which was upon the face of the earth. Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. An hundred and fifty days did the waters prevail upon the earth.

Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters were still. Also the fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. And the waters returned from off the earth continually, and after the end of an hundred and fifty days began to sink.

In the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon Mount Ararat. And still the waters decreased continually; until the tops of the mountains were seen, in the tenth month, on the first day of the month.

Now at the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. And he sent forth a raven, which did not return, for he was a carrion-feeder, and found rest and food upon the surface of the waters.

Also he sent forth a dove, to see if the waters were grown less. But the dove found no tree upon which she could perch, and she returned unto him into the ark; for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. And he put forth his hand and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark. Then after another seven days he sent forth the dove out of the ark again. And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive

leaf plucked off; so Noah knew that the waters were going down. Then he waited yet another seven days, and sent forth the dove, which returned not again unto him any more.

Thus it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, in the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark; and behold, the face of the ground was dry. And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.

Then God spake unto Noah, saying: "Go forth out of the ark, thou and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth: so that they may breed abundantly upon the earth, and multiply."

So Noah went forth, and all they that were with him in the ark, both men and beasts. And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

And because there was a sweet smell from his burnt offerings, the Lord said in His heart: "I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake, because his imagination is evil, neither will I again smite any more everything living, as I have done. While the earth remains, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease."

Then unto Noah God said: "You shall be

blessed indeed, and your sons after you. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air; upon all that moves upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea. Into your hands are they delivered; so that every moving thing that is living shall be meat for you: even as the green herbs have I given you all things.

"Now, behold, I will make a promise to you, and your sons after you. Neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; nor shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said: "Behold, this is the sign which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for ever. I will set my rainbow in the cloud; and when I bring a cloud over the earth, the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud. And I will look upon it that I may remember the vow which I have made unto you."

And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Now the families of the sons of Noah overspread the whole earth after the flood. And the whole earth spoke one language, and one speech. And it came to pass, as men travelled from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

And they said to one another: "Go to, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly."

And they had bricks for stone, and slime for mortar.

And they said: "Go to, let us build a city and a tower, which may reach unto heaven. Let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth."

And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said: "Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language. They begin to do this, and now shall they be hindered in nothing which they may imagine to do. Go to, let us go down and confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech."

So the Lord scattered them from thence upon the face of all the earth; and they left off building the city. Therefore the city is called Babel, because it was there that the Lord confused the language of the children of men.

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

THE SACRIFICE OF ISAAC

NOW many years after the building of Babel, God chose Abraham among the people to be the Father of nations which should inherit the land of Canaan. They also should keep the way of the Lord, doing justice and judgment. And Abraham called his son Isaac.

One day it came to pass that God called unto Abraham, who answered: "Behold, here I am." And God said: "Many things have you sacrificed to me. A she-goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon. But take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go into the land of Moriah. There shall you give him unto Me as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains, which I will tell you of."

Then Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son. And he cut off the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went into the place of which God had told him.

Now after they had walked over the mountains for three days, Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. Then he said to his young men: "Do you stay here with the ass.

I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood which he had cut for the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac. He himself carried the fire in his hand, and a knife: and they went both of them together.

Then Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said: "My father." And he answered: "Here am I, my son." And Isaac said: "Behold, here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham answered: "My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering." And they went on, both of them together.

And when they came to the place which God had told him of, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. Then he stretched out his hand, and took the knife even to kill his son.

But an angel of God called unto him out of heaven, saying: "Abraham, Abraham." And Abraham answered: "Here am I." And the angel said: "Lay not your hand upon the lad, nor do anything unto him, for now I know that you fear God, because you have not kept back even your son, your only son, from me."

Then Abraham lifted his eyes, and saw behind him a ram, that was caught by its horns in a thicket. So he went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

Then the angel of God called unto Abraham out of heaven a second time, and said: "Thus

saith the Lord: 'Because you have done this thing, and have not kept back from Me your son, your only son, I will bless you and your children for evermore. They shall be as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea-shore; in them shall all the nations of the earth be blessed: because you have obeyed My voice.'"

So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba, and Abraham lived in Beersheba.

THE STORY OF JACOB

Now when Isaac had grown to manhood he married Rebekah, and they had two sons, named Esau and Jacob. And the boys grew; and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field: and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. When Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, Jacob took the place of Esau, the first-born; so that his father blessed him, saying: "May God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine. Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee. Go, take thee a wife from the daughters of Laban, thy mother's brother. May God give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee and thy children with thee; that thou mayst inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave to Abraham."

So Jacob obeyed his father and his mother,

and journeyed toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun was set. And he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillow, and lay down to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold the angels of God upon it walking up and down the ladder. The Lord God stood above it and said unto Jacob: "I am the God of Abraham thy father and the God of Isaac. Behold, thy children shall be as the dust of the earth, and they shall spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. In thee and thy children shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee until I have done all that I have promised thee."

Now when Jacob awaked out of his sleep, he was afraid, and said: "Surely this is none other but the house of God and this is the gate of heaven." And he called the name of that place Beth-el, which means, the House of God. And the stones which Jacob had put for his pillow, he set up for a pillar, and poured oil upon it, saying: "Of all that Thou givest unto me, I will surely give the tenth unto Thee."

Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east. And he looked and saw a well in the field, and lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it, for out of

the well they watered the flocks; and a great stone was upon the well. And Jacob said to the shepherds: "Know ye Laban?" And they said: "We know him." And he said unto them: "Is he well?" And they said: "He is well; and behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with his sheep."

And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she kept them. And when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban, his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban, he went near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth and watered the sheep.

And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. And he told Rachel that he was Rebekah's son. And she ran and told her father. Then Laban ran out to meet him, and kissed him, and embraced him, and brought him to his house. And Jacob abode with him the space of a month.

And Laban said unto him: "Why should you serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"

Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the elder was Leah, and the younger was called Rachel; and Jacob loved Rachel; therefore he said unto Laban: "I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter." And Laban said: "It is better I give her to thee than that I should give her to another. Abide with me."

So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days, because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said unto Laban: "Give me my wife, for my days are finished." And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. But when Jacob lifted his wife's veil, behold, it was Leah. And he said unto Laban: "What is this that thou hast done unto me? Did I not serve with thee for Rachel? Wherefore hast thou deceived me?" And Laban said: "It is not the custom in our country to give the younger before the first-born. Be content, therefore, and I will give thee Rachel also if thou wilt serve with me another seven years." And Jacob promised. He married Rachel also, and served for her yet seven other years.

JOSEPH AND HIS BRETHREN

Now Leah had ten sons, but Jacob loved best the two sons of Rachel, whom he called Joseph and Benjamin; so that their brothers were jealous of them, but especially they hated Joseph, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Now Jacob made Joseph a coat of many colours. And it came to pass that the lad dreamed a dream and told it to his brethren. He said unto them: "Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For behold, we were binding sheaves in a field, and lo, my sheaf arose and stood upright; and behold, your sheaves stood round about and bowed low to my sheaf." And his brethren said unto him: "Shalt thou indeed reign over us, or shalt thou indeed have command over us?"

And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it to his brethren and said: "Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars bowed down to me." And he told it to his father and his brethren; and his father rebuked him and said unto him: "What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to the earth to thee?" And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

And one day his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. And Jacob said unto Joseph: "Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? Come, and I will send thee to them." And Joseph answered: "Here am I." And Jacob said to him: "Go, I pray thee, and see whether it be well with thy brethren and well with the flocks, and bring me word again." So he sent him out of the valley of Hebron and he came to Shechem.

And a certain man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the field; and the man asked him, saying: "What seekest thou?" And he said: "I seek my brethren; tell me, I pray thee, where they are feeding their flocks." And the man said: "They are gone from here, for I heard them say: 'Let us go to Dothan.'" And Joseph went after his brethren and found them in Dothan.

And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they planned together

how they might kill him. And they said one to another: "Behold, this dreamer cometh. Now therefore let us slay him and cast him into some pit, and we will say some evil beast hath devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But one of them, who was called Reuben, said unto his brethren: "Let us not kill him. Let us shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness and lay no hand on him." For so he thought that he might save Joseph from them, and bring him again to his father.

And it came to pass when Joseph came to his brethren that they stript him out of his coat: the coat of many colours which was on him. And they took and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty; there was no water in it. And they sat down to eat bread; when, as they lifted up their eyes and looked, behold, a company of men called Ishmaelites came from Gilead, with their camels carrying spice and balm and myrrh down to Egypt. And Judah said to his brethren: "What shall we profit if we slay our brother and hide his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites: let not our hand be upon him, for he is our flesh and blood."

His brethren were content; and as the merchantmen passed by they lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver; so that he was taken into Egypt.

Then Reuben went back to the pit, and behold, Joseph was not in the pit, and he tore up his clothes in his great grief; and he returned

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to his brethren and said: "The child is not, and I, whither shall I go?"

But they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood. They brought to their father the coat of many colours, and said: "We have found this: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no." And he knew it, and said: "It is my son's coat; an evil beast has devoured him; without doubt Joseph is torn in pieces." Then Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth upon him, and mourned Joseph for many days. Though all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, he refused to be comforted; for he said: "I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning."

JOSEPH IN EGYPT

Now Joseph was brought down into Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh the king, and a captain of the guard, bought him from the hand of the Ishmaelites who had brought him thither.

And the Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man. Because Potiphar saw this he made Joseph overseer in his house and over all that he had. And it came to pass from that day that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of God was upon all that he had in the house and in the field. And Potiphar knew not what he had, except the bread that he did eat.

But it came to pass after a time that Joseph

offended Potiphar's wife, and she bare false witness against him to her husband, so that Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound.

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy; so that the keeper of the prison gave into Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatever they did there he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison himself took no care of anything that was under his hand; because God was with Joseph and whatever he did God made it prosper.

Now it came to pass after these things that the chief butler of the king of Egypt and the chief baker had offended their lord. And Pharaoh was angry against his officers, and he put them in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound. And Potiphar put them in charge of Joseph, and he served them.

Then both of them dreamed a dream, each man his dream in one night, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were bound in the prison. And Joseph came in unto them in the morning and looked upon them, and behold, they were sad, and he asked them, saying: "Why look ye so sadly to-day?" And they said unto him: "We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter." And Joseph said unto them: "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams, I pray you."

And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph and said: "In my dream, behold, a vine was

before me, and in the vine were three branches; and it seemed as though it budded and the blossoms shot forth, and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes. And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand."

And Joseph said unto him: "This is the interpretation of it. The three branches are three days. Within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head and restore thee unto thy place. Thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, as in former days when thou wast his butler.

"But think of me, when all is well with thee; and show kindness, I pray thee, unto me. Make mention of me unto Pharaoh and bring me out of this house. For, indeed, I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews; and here I have done nothing for which they should put me into the dungeon."

When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph: "I also was in my dream, and behold, I had three white baskets on my head, and in the uppermost basket there were all manner of baked meats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head."

And Joseph answered and said: "This is the interpretation of thy dream. The three baskets are three days, and within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree, and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee."

Now it came to pass that the third day was

Pharaoh's birthday, and he made a feast for all his servants. And he lifted up the heads of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants. He restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; but he hanged the chief baker, even as Joseph had said.

Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

THE COMING OF THE ISRAELITES

And it came to pass at the end of two years that Pharaoh dreamed; and behold, he stood by the river. And there came up out of the river seven fine and fat-fleshed cattle, and they fed in a meadow. Afterward there came up after them out of the river seven other cattle that were poor and thin, and they stood by the other cattle upon the brink of the river. And the poor and lean cattle ate up those that were fine and fat-fleshed. Then Pharaoh awoke.

And the king slept and dreamed the second time; and behold, seven fat and good ears of corn came up on one stalk. Then seven thin ears, blasted with the east wind, came up after them. And the seven thin ears devoured the seven fat and good ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and was troubled, and in the morning he sent for all the magicians, and all the wise men of Egypt, and told them his dreams. But there was not one who could tell the meaning thereof unto Pharaoh.

Then the chief butler spake unto Pharaoh, saying: "I remember my faults this day. My

lord was wroth with his servants, and put me in prison in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker. And we dreamed a dream in one night, he and I. And there was with us there a young man, a Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams to us, each man according to his dream. And it came to pass, as he interpreted, so it was. You, my lord, restored me to my office; and the baker you hanged."

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved himself, and changed his clothes, and came and stood before the king. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph: "I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it. Now I have heard of thee that thou canst understand dreams and art able to interpret them." Then he went on to tell Joseph of his two dreams, as you have just heard them, adding that when the lean cattle had eaten up the fat no man would have known that they had eaten anything, for they were as thin as at the beginning.

Then Joseph answered: "God has shown unto Pharaoh what He is about to do. The seven good cattle are seven years, and the seven good ears of corn are seven years. The dream is one. The seven thin and poor cattle that came up after them are seven years: and the seven empty ears that were blasted by the east wind are also seven years.

"And this is what God has shown unto

Pharaoh: Behold, there shall come seven years of great plenty throughout Egypt. And after them there shall arise seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt, and the famine shall consume the land, for it shall be very grievous.

"The dream was shown unto Pharaoh twice, because these things are established by God, and He would make them known unto the king. Now therefore let Pharaoh choose a discreet and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. And let him appoint officers over the land, to take up a fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years. Let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the care of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. Then that food shall be a store for the land for the seven years of famine, so that the people shall not perish through the famine."

Now this advice seemed good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said: "Can we find such a man as this is, one in whom is the Spirit of God?" And he looked with favour upon Joseph, and said to him: "Truly, since God has shown thee all this, there is no one so discreet and wise as thou art. Thou shalt be over my house, and according to thy word shall all my people be ruled; only on the throne shall I be greater than thou."

And Pharaoh took the ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain

round his neck. And he made him ride in the second chariot, and his servants cried before him: "Bow the knee." And so Joseph was made ruler over all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph: "I am Pharaoh, and without thy permission shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." And Pharaoh called Joseph by an Egyptian name, which means 'Revealer of Secrets,' and he gave him to wife Asenath, the daughter of a priest of On.

Joseph was thirty years old when he gained the favour of Pharaoh, and from that time he had full authority, and his orders were obeyed by all men throughout the land of Egypt.

And so it was that during the years of plenty, when the earth brought forth corn in handfuls, Joseph gathered up all the food of the seven years and stored them in the cities. He stored up from the fields that were round about every city. He gathered corn like the sands of the sea, very much, until he left off numbering it, for it was without number.

During these years of plenty, Joseph and Asenath had two sons. His first-born he called Manasseh (that is, 'Forgetting'), because, he said, "God has made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house." And his second son he called Ephraim (that is, 'Fruitful'), because "God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

When the seven years of plenteousness were ended, the seven years of famine began to come, according as Joseph had said. The famine was

in all lands; only in the land of Egypt was there bread.

Now when the people of Egypt were famished they cried to Pharaoh for bread; and he said: "Go unto Joseph: what he saith unto you, do."

Then Joseph opened the storehouses, and sold corn unto the Egyptians. And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph to buy bread; for the famine was terrible everywhere.

And the news was brought to Jacob that there was corn in Egypt, and he said unto his sons: "Why do you look upon each other? Behold, I have been told there is corn in Egypt: get you down there and buy for us, so that we may live, and not die. So Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt. But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with them, for fear that mischief might befall him.

Thus it happened that as Joseph was governor over the land and sold all the corn, his brethren came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. Joseph knew his brethren at once, but he did not reveal himself to them. "Where is it that you come from?" he demanded roughly. And they said: "From the land of Canaan, to buy food." "Not so," Joseph replied; "ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land are ye come."

But the men protested: "Nay, my lord, thy servants are come to buy food. We are all one man's sons: we are true men. Thy servants are no spies." Joseph still pretended to be angry, and said: "Nay, ye are come to see the nakedness of the land." And again they said: "Thy

servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not." But Joseph only repeated: "It is as I said unto you, ye are spies. Nevertheless in this way shall ye be proved: you shall not go hence, unless your youngest brother come here. You shall be put in prison, while one of you goes home to fetch your brother. So shall your words be proved, whether there is any truth in them; or, surely, by the life of Pharaoh, ye are spies."

Then Joseph put them all in prison for three days; and on the third day he said unto them: "This do, and live, for I fear God. If ye be true men, let one of you be bound in prison; the others shall carry corn for the famine in your house, and shall bring your youngest brother unto me, so that your words may be proved true, and ye shall not die."

Then they said one to another, in their own tongue: "We are guilty, indeed, about Joseph our brother, because we saw the anguish of his soul, when he begged mercy of us, and we would not hear. Therefore has this distress come upon us."

And Reuben spake bitterly: "Did I not say unto you, 'Do not sin against the child,' and ye would not hear? Therefore his blood is required of you."

They did not know that Joseph understood them, for he had spoken unto them through an interpreter, but he turned himself about from them and wept. Then he turned to them again

and spake with them, after which he took Simeon from them, and bound him before their eyes.

The Egyptians now, at Joseph's command, filled the sacks of the brethren with corn, and they put back every man's money into his sack, and gave them food for the journey. So they laded their asses with corn, and departed from Egypt.

Now one of them opened his sack at the inn to feed his ass; and he saw his money, for it was in the mouth of the sack. And he said to his brethren: "My money is restored, and lo, it is in my sack." Then their hearts failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another: "What is this that God has done unto us?"

In due time they came unto Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, and they told him all that had happened unto them. And as they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's money was in his sack; and when both they and their father saw the bundles of money they were afraid.

And Jacob their father said unto them: "Me have ye bereaved of my children. Joseph is not, Simeon is not, and now would ye take away Benjamin. These things are more than I can bear." And Reuben spake unto his father: "Ye shall slay my two sons, if I do not bring Benjamin back to thee. Deliver him into my hand and I will bring him to thee again." But Jacob answered: "My son shall not go down with you; his brother is dead, and now if any mischief happen to him by the way, then shall ye bring down my grey hairs with sorrow to the grave." And the brethren were silent before the grief of the old man, their father.

Now the famine grew more terrible, and when Jacob and his family had eaten up all the corn which had been brought out of Egypt Jacob said to his sons: "Go ye again, and buy us a little food." But Judah protested: "The man did solemnly tell us, saying: 'Ye shall not see my face unless your brother be with you.' If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food. But if thou wilt not send him, then we will not go." And Jacob said: "Why did ye so ill as to tell the man that ye had another brother?" They answered: "The man questioned us so narrowly about our family, asking, 'Is your father alive still? Have ye another brother?' that we could but answer him as we have told you. How could we know that he would say: 'Bring down your brother'?"

Then said Judah to Jacob his father: "Send the lad with us, and we will arise and go; so that we may live and not die, both we and thou, and also our little ones. I will be a surety for Benjamin, and thou shalt demand him of me. If I bring him not to thee and set him before thee, the blame shall be mine for ever. Bethink thee, if we had not lingered, we should have been back again by now."

And so at last Jacob said: "If it must be so, now do this: take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down to the man a present—a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds. And take double money in your hands; and the money that was put back into your sacks, for maybe it was returned by some mistake. Take also your brother,

and arise, and go again to the man. And may God Almighty give you mercy before the man, so that he may send back Simeon, and Benjamin. For if I lose my children, I am bereaved indeed."

So the brethren did all that their father bade. Together with Benjamin they went down into Egypt, and stood before Joseph. And when Joseph saw Benjamin, he said unto the ruler of his house: "Bring these men home, and get ready a feast, for these men shall dine with me at noon."

Then were Joseph's brethren afraid because they were brought into his house; and they said one to another: "It is because of the money that was returned into our sacks the first time that we are brought in. The man will surely charge something against us and fall upon us, and take us for his slaves, with our asses."

So they went up to the steward of Joseph's house and talked with him at the door. They said: "Oh, sir, indeed we came down the first time to buy food. And it came to pass, at the inn on our way home, we opened our sacks, and behold, every man's money was in the mouth of his sack. We cannot tell who put our money in our sacks, and we have brought it again in our hands. Also, we have other money in our hands to buy more food."

The steward comforted them. "Peace be unto you, and fear not," said he; "your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks. I had your money for the food." And he brought Simeon unto them.

Then the steward brought them into Joseph's

house, and gave them water so that they might wash their feet. And he fed their asses.

The brethren now made ready the present for Joseph's coming at noon; for they heard that they were to eat bread there. And when Joseph came home, they offered him the present, and bowed themselves to the earth before him. And he asked them if all was well with them, and whether their father was well: "The old man of whom you spoke. Is he still alive?" And they answered: "Thy servant our father is in good health; he is still alive." And they bowed down their heads before him.

Then Joseph lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said: "Is this your younger brother, of whom ye told me?" And he said: "May God be gracious to you, my son." But he could say no more, and went out hastily to his chamber that he might weep unseen, for his heart yearned over his brother. And he composed himself and washed his face that it might not be known that he had wept. Then he returned to the room and said: "Set on bread." And the servants set for him by himself; and for the brethren, by themselves; and for the Egyptians, who were to eat with him, by themselves, for the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews. And Joseph bade the brethren sit down: the first-born according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth. And they all marvelled. Afterward he sent to them food from his own table, and Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of his brothers'.

Very early the next morning Joseph commanded the steward of his house to fill the men's sacks with as much food as they could carry, and to put every man's money in his sack's mouth. "Moreover," said he, "put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, with his corn money."

And as Joseph had commanded so it was done, and the men were sent away as soon as it was light, they and their asses. But after they had gone out of the city but were not yet far on their journey, Joseph said to his steward: "Up, follow after them, and say unto them: 'Wherefore have ye rewarded good by evil? Is not this the cup in which my lord drinketh? Ye have done evil in taking it.'"

And when the steward had overtaken them, and so spoken, they answered: "Wherefore does my lord say these things? God forbid that thy servants should act thus. Did not we bring back to thee out of Canaan the money which we found in our sacks' mouths before? How then should we steal silver or gold out of thy lord's house? But if the cup be found with any of thy servants let him die, and we also will be thy lord's bondmen." And the steward answered: "Nay, let the guilty be bondman to me, and ye shall be blameless." Then quickly every man put down his sack on the ground and opened it. And the steward searched them, beginning with the eldest. The last sack was Benjamin's, and lo, the cup was found therein. Then the brethren rent their clothes, and loading their asses again returned to the city.

There they fell upon their faces before Joseph. And he said unto them: "What is this deed that ye have done? Did ye not know that such a man as I would certainly find you out?" And Judah answered him: "What shall we say unto my lord, or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the wickedness of thy servants. Behold, we are my lord's servants; both we and he with whom the cup was found." But Joseph said: "God forbid. Verily he in whose sack the cup was found shall be my servant; as for you, go ye in peace home to your father."

Then Judah came near unto Joseph, saying: "Oh, my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ear; and let not thine anger burn against thy servant, for thou art even as Pharaoh. When my lord asked us, 'Have ye a father or a brother?' we said unto thee: 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loveth him.' Then thou saidst unto thy servants: 'Bring him down unto me, that I may set mine eyes upon him.' And we said unto thee: 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.' But my lord answered: 'Except your youngest brother come with you, ye shall see my face no more.' Thus it was, when our father said unto us, 'Go again, and buy me a little food,' that we told him all that my lord said. Wherefore thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying: 'If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to

my father for ever.' Now, then, I pray thee, let thy servant, instead of the lad, be a bondman to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brethren. For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad not with me?"

Then Joseph could restrain himself no longer, and he sent away all the Egyptians that were with him. And when they had departed he made himself known to his brethren. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard him. And he said unto his brethren: "I am Joseph. Doth my father still live?" And his brethren could not answer him, for they were afraid. But he said unto them: "Come near to me, I pray you. Be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves because you sold me: for God did send me here before you, to save your lives. For there have been two years' famine in the land, and for yet another five years there shall be no harvest.

"So it was not you who sent me, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house, and a ruler over all Egypt. Therefore haste and go up to my father and say to him: 'Thus saith thy son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me and tarry not. Thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen; and thou shalt be near unto me; thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast.' Behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is I who speak to you. And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and

of all that you have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father." Then he kissed all his brethren; and they talked with him.

Now when the news that Joseph's brethren were come was heard in Pharaoh's house it pleased Pharaoh well. He bade Joseph send them unto the land of Canaan with wagons to bring their little ones and their wives. As for their possessions, they were not to regard these, for there was plenty in the land of Egypt for them all. And Joseph gave them also food for their journey. To all of them he gave each man changes of raiment, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of raiment.

To his father he sent ten asses laden with the good things of Egypt, and ten she-asses laden with corn and bread and meat for his father on the way.

So the brethren went out of Egypt and came into the land of Canaan, unto Jacob their father. And they told him, saying: "Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." But Jacob believed them not. But when he had heard all the words of Joseph and had seen the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirits of Jacob their father revived, and he said: "It is enough: Joseph my son is yet alive. I will go and see him before I die."

And so Israel and his children came into Egypt, and they dwelt in the land.

THE YEARS OF BONDAGE

THE CHOOSING OF MOSES

MANY years had passed, and the children of Israel had become so many that Egypt was filled with them. Then arose a new king who had no remembrance of the works of Joseph. And he said to his people: "Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we. Come then, and let us deal with them, lest it should happen that when we are at war they join with our enemies and fight against us." Therefore the Egyptians set taskmasters over the children of Israel, who made their life bitter with harsh treatment. Whether they made bricks and mortar, or ploughed in the fields, their work was made hard unto them.

But the more they were oppressed, the more the Israelites grew and multiplied, and the Egyptians were grieved because of this. Then the king commanded his people: "Every son that is born among the children of Israel ye shall cast into the river, but every daughter ye shall save alive."

Now it came to pass that a certain boy was born, and his mother hid him for three months. And when she could no longer hide him, she made an ark of bulrushes and daubed it with

slime and with pitch, and put him therein. And she laid the ark among the flags by the brink of the river; and the child's sister stood afar off, to see what would befall. As she watched, the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the river, and she saw the ark and sent her maid to fetch it. And when she had opened it she saw the child; and behold, the babe wept. Then the princess had pity on him, and said: "This is one of the Hebrews' children." And, made bold by love, his sister came near unto Pharaoh's daughter, saying: "Shall I go and call for thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her: "Go." And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her: "Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages." And the woman gladly took the child and nursed it.

The infant became a sturdy boy, and in due time his mother brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her adopted son. And she called his name Moses.

So Moses grew up among the Egyptians; but often he went out unto his own brethren and beheld their burdens. And it came to pass one day that he saw an Egyptian strike a Hebrew, one of his brethren. Then he looked this way and that way, until he saw that there was no man near, and he slew the Egyptian, and hid his body in the sand.

Now, on the next day, as he walked, Moses

came upon two men of the Hebrews who strove violently together. And he said to him that did the wrong: "Wherefore didst thou strike thy fellow?" And he answered: "Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? Dost thou intend to kill me, as thou didst kill the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and said: "Surely it is known that I slew the Egyptian."

Now tidings were brought to Pharaoh of what Moses had done, and he sought to slay him; but Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian. One day it came to pass that Moses sat by a well, and behold, the seven daughters of Jethro, the priest of Midian, came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. And shepherds came and drove the maidens away, but Moses stood up and helped them and watered their flock. Then when they came to their father he said: "How is it that ye are come so soon to-day?" And they said: "An Egyptian saved us from the hand of the shepherds, and also drew enough water for us, and watered the flock." And Jethro said unto his daughters: "Where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may come and eat bread with me." And Moses was content to dwell with Jethro, and took to wife Zipporah, his daughter. And she had a son whom Moses named Gershom, for he said: "I have been a stranger in a strange land."

Now it came to pass in process of time that the king of Egypt died, and the children of Israel sighed because of their bitter lot; and their cry came up unto God. And God heard

their groaning, and He remembered His promise to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and took pity on them.

Therefore while Moses was keeping the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, he led the flock to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of God appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of a bush. And he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, yet it was not consumed. Then said Moses: "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said: "Moses, Moses." And he said: "Here am I." And God said: "Draw not near unto Me; but put thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Moreover He said: "I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the affliction of My people, which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows. And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land that is flowing with milk and honey. Come now, therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest deliver My people out of Egypt."

Then Moses said unto God: "Who am I

that I should do this thing?" And He answered: "Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee that I have sent thee: when thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain." Then Moses said: "Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, 'The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you,' and they shall say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say unto them?"

And God said unto Moses: "I AM THAT I AM. Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel: 'I AM hath sent me unto you.'" Moreover, God said: "Go and gather together the elders of Israel, and say unto them: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me saying, "I have surely visited you and seen all that is done unto you in Egypt. I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto a land flowing with milk and honey."' Then they shall listen to thy voice; and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say to him: 'The Lord God of the Hebrews hath met with us; now let us go, we beseech thee, three days into the wilderness, so that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.' And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go. Then I will stretch out My hand and smite Egypt with all My wonders done in the midst of them, and after that he will let you go. And I will give My people favour in the sight of the Egyptians; so that when ye go, ye

shall not go empty. But every woman shall borrow from her neighbour, and from any who are living in her house—jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment. Ye shall put them upon your sons and your daughters, and ye shall spoil the Egyptians."

Then Moses answered and said: "But, behold, they will not believe me, nor listen to my voice; for they will say: 'The Lord hath *not* appeared unto thee.'" But God said unto him: "What is that in thine hand?" And he said: "A rod." And God said: "Cast it on the ground." And Moses threw the rod on the ground, and it became a serpent, and he fled from before it. And the Lord said: "Put forth thine hand and take it by the tail." And when he put forth his hand and caught it, it became a rod in his hand. "So shall they believe that the Lord God of their fathers hath appeared unto thee." Again the Lord said unto him: "Put thine hand into thy bosom." He put in his hand, and when he took it out, lo, it was leprous as snow. And He said: "Put thine hand in again." And Moses put his hand into his bosom and again plucked it out, and behold, it was like his other flesh. Then the Lord said unto him: "If they will not believe these two signs, nor listen to thy voice, do thou take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land. Then shall the water which thou hast taken out become blood upon the land."

Then said Moses unto the Lord: "O my Lord, I am not eloquent. I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue." And the Lord said

unto him: "Who hath made man's mouth? Who maketh the dumb, or the deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord, made them all? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what to say."

But Moses answered: "O my Lord, send, I pray Thee, by the hand of him whom Thou wilt send."

Then was God's anger kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron, the Levite, thy brother? I know that he can speak well. Also, behold, he is coming forth to meet thee, and when he sees thee he will be glad in his heart. And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words into his mouth; and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people, and he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God. And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand; with it thou shalt perform signs."

A GREAT CRY IN EGYPT

Then Moses returned to Jethro, his father-in-law, and said: "Let me go, I pray thee, and return to my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive." And Jethro answered: "Go in peace."

For the Lord had said unto Moses: "Go, return unto Egypt, for all the men are dead who sought to kill thee." So Moses took his wife

and his sons and set them upon an ass, and returned to the land of Egypt. The rod of God he took in his hand.

And the Lord said unto Moses: "See that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in thy hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he shall not let the people go. Thou shalt say unto him: 'Thus saith the Lord: "Israel is My son, even My first-born. And I say unto thee, let My son go, that he may serve Me. But if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy first-born."'"

Also to Aaron the Lord said: "Go into the wilderness, to meet Moses." And he went, and met him on the mount of God, and kissed him. Then Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord Who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him to do. So Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. And Aaron spoke according as the Lord had directed Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed. And when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and looked upon their afflictions, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

After this Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh saying: "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast unto Me in the wilderness.'" But Pharaoh answered: "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice, to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go. Wherefore do you, Moses and Aaron, hinder the people

from their work? Go ye back to your own business."

Then said Pharaoh to the taskmasters of the people, and their officers: "Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. But they shall not make fewer bricks: let more work be laid upon them, for they are idle. Therefore do they cry, saying: 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.'"

And because of this oppression the officers of the children of Israel made complaint unto Pharaoh, but he answered again: "Ye are idle, ye are idle, and therefore do ye seek to sacrifice to your God. There shall be no straw given unto you, yet ye shall make the full number of bricks. Go, therefore, now, and work."

Then said the officers to Moses and Aaron: "May the Lord judge between us; because ye have made us hateful in Pharaoh's eyes and in the eyes of his servants, so that they seek even to slay us."

Then said Moses unto the Lord: "Wherefore hast Thou treated this people so? Why hast Thou sent me? For Pharaoh has done more evil to them, nor hast Thou delivered Thy people at all."

But the Lord answered Moses: "Now shalt thou see what I shall do unto Pharaoh: for behold, he will let My people go; nay, he shall drive them out with a strong hand. Wherefore say unto the children of Israel: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments.

Even as I promised to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, I will give you a fair land for an heritage. I am the Lord, even Jehovah.'"

Even so spake Moses to the children of Israel, but in their bitterness they would not hear him. So God bade him speak again unto Pharaoh, but he said: "The people would not listen to me, how then shall Pharaoh hearken?" Then God charged Moses and Aaron to go fearlessly before the king of Egypt, and according as God commanded, Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. But the wise men of Egypt, and the sorcerers, and the magicians, they also did in like manner with their enchantments; every man cast down his rod, and it too became a serpent. Then straightway Aaron's rod swallowed up the rods of the sorcerers. Nevertheless it was not God's purpose that Pharaoh should consent at once to let the people go, and the king's heart was hardened, as God had told Moses that it would be.

Then said the Lord: "Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning, and say unto Aaron: 'Take thy rod and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, so that they may become blood; and so that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.'"

And Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. And the fish that was in the river died, and the river stank, and the Egyptians

could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land: even for seven days. But the magicians of Egypt performed similar marvels with their enchantments, and Pharaoh's heart was hardened.

Then once more the Lord spake unto Moses, saying: "Go unto Pharaoh and say unto him: 'Behold, if thou wilt not let the people go I will smite all thy borders with frogs. And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens and into thy kneading troughs.'" But Pharaoh paid no heed, wherefore Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land. And again the magicians did likewise.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them: "Entreat the Lord for me, that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people, and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice unto God." And Moses did so; and the frogs died, and they gathered them together in heaps.

But when Pharaoh saw that the plague was removed, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses.

Then the Lord bade Aaron stretch out his rod and smite the dust of the land, so that it should become lice. Then was there lice in man and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all Egypt. And the

magicians strove also to bring forth lice, but they could not. And they said unto Pharaoh: "This, truly, is the finger of God"; but his heart was hardened, and he would not listen.

Then the Lord said unto Moses: "Rise up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he cometh forth to the water, and say unto him: 'Thus saith the Lord, "Let My people go, so that they may serve Me. Else, if thou wilt not, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee and upon thy servants, and into thy houses; so that the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of them. Only in Goshen, where My people dwell, there shall be no flies. So will I make a division between My people and thy people."'" And so it came to pass.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, saying: "Go ye, and sacrifice to your God in this land." But Moses said: "It is not proper for us to sacrifice in Egypt. We will go three days into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord, even as He shall command us." And Pharaoh said: "I will let you go, only ye shall not go very far away. Only pray for me that the Lord remove the swarm of flies from us." And Moses answered: "I will pray for thee; but let not Pharaoh deal deceitfully any more."

Nevertheless, yet again Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

Then the Lord said unto Moses: "Go in unto Pharaoh and tell him: 'Behold, the hand of God is upon thy cattle which are in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep;

there shall be a grievous murrain over all of them.'" And so it was that all the cattle of Egypt died of the plague. Then Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. Wherefore he hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

Then the Lord bade Moses and Aaron take up handfuls of ashes and sprinkle them toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. And behold, it fell as small dust which caused boils to break forth upon man and upon beast. And the magicians could not stand before Moses because the boils were upon them as upon all the Egyptians. Yet once more God hardened the heart of Pharaoh.

Then the Lord said unto Moses: "Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh and say unto him: 'Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. For at this time I will send all My plagues upon thine heart and upon thy servants: I will stretch out My hand that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence, and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. For, indeed, I have raised thee up to show My power, and that My name may be proclaimed over the whole earth, and men may know there is none like Me. Behold, to-morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as has not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof until now. Send therefore now, and gather in thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field; for upon every man and beast which shall be found in the field and not brought

home the hail shall come down and they shall die."'"

Then he that feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle come into the house. But he that regarded not the word of God left his servants and his cattle in the field.

Then Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, so that the fire ran along the ground, and the Lord rained hail upon the land, and fire mingled with the hail. Never before had there been such hail in Egypt since it became a nation. And it smote all that was in the field, both man and beast. It smote every herb in the field, and broke every tree in the field. But in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel lived, there was no hail.

Then Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron and said to them: "I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and I and my people are wicked. Pray to your God therefore (for it is enough) that He send no more mighty thunderings and hail. I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer." So Moses promised; but when the thunder and hail and rain ceased Pharaoh hardened his heart yet once more.

And the Lord said unto Moses: "I have hardened the heart of Pharaoh, that I might show these My signs before him; and that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son and of thy son's son what things I have done in Egypt: so shall they know that I am the Lord." Then

Moses said unto Pharaoh: "Because thou hast refused to humble thyself before God, and wilt not let His people go, behold, to-morrow will He send locusts into thy coast. And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one shall be able to see the earth, and they shall eat all that which is escaped, which remained unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree that groweth for you out of the field. And they shall fill thy houses and the houses of all thy servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians."

Then said Pharaoh's servants: "How long shall this man be a snare unto us? Let the men go, that they may serve their God. Dost thou not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?" And because of this Pharaoh sent again for Moses and Aaron, saying: "Go, serve the Lord your God! But who are they who wish to go?" Then Moses answered: "We will go with our young and with our old men, with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds will we go; for we must make a feast unto the Lord." But Pharaoh answered: "It shall not be so: go now ye that are men, and serve God as ye desire. But let your little ones look to it, for there is evil before you." And they were driven out from his presence.

Then Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning the east wind brought the locusts. And they covered the whole face of the earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the

land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left; and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

Then again Pharaoh promised that he would let the people go, if Moses would pray unto the Lord to forgive his sin only this once, and take away from him this death only. And the Lord turned a mighty strong west wind which took away the locusts and cast them into the Red Sea, so that there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart yet again, so that he would not let the people go.

Then God said unto Moses: "Stretch out thy hand toward heaven, so that there be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness that may be felt." And for three days they saw not one another, nor did any rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. Then Pharaoh said unto Moses: "Go ye, serve the Lord and let your little ones also go with you. Only let your flocks and your herds be left in Egypt." But Moses answered: "Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings that we may sacrifice unto the Lord our God. Our cattle shall go with us; there shall not a hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the Lord our God; and we know not with what we must serve Him, until we come thither." But Pharaoh said unto him: "Get thee from me, and take heed to thyself, see my face no more, for on that day thou seest

my face, thou shalt die." And Moses answered: "Thou hast spoken well: I will see thy face again no more."

Then the Lord said unto Moses: "Yet will I bring one more plague upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go; and when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether. Speak now in the ear of My people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, that ye may spoil the Egyptians."

And Moses said unto the people: "Thus saith the Lord: 'About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt. And all the first-born in the land of Egypt shall die, from the first-born of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even to the first-born of the maid-servant that is behind the mill; and all the first-born of beasts. And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, neither against man nor beast, that ye may know how the Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.'"

And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron saying: "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months, it shall be the first month of the year unto you. On the tenth day of this month do you bid every man take a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house. And if the household be too little

for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it, according to the number of souls: every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep or from the goats. And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood and sprinkle it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. And thus shall ye eat it, with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand: and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's Passover.

"For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast: and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land.

"This day shall be unto you for a memorial, and ye shall keep it as a feast for ever. And on this feast for seven days ye shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day shall ye worship the Lord your God, and on the seventh day shall ye worship Me. No manner of work

shall be done on these days; except that which every man must eat, that only may ye do."

And the people of Israel went every man to his own home, and as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they.

Then it came to pass that at midnight the Lord smote all the first-born in the land, from the first-born of Pharaoh that sat on his throne, to the first-born of the captive that was in the dungeon, and all the first-born of cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

And Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said: "Rise up and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said. Also take your flocks and herds, as ye have said, and begone; and bless me also."

And the Egyptians were urgent with the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said: "We be all dead men." And the people took up their dough before it was leavened and bound up their kneading-troughs in their clothes upon their backs. And according to the word of Moses, they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver and jewels of gold, and raiment. And the Egyptians were glad to lend them all such things as they required.

Now the children of Israel had dwelt in Egypt for four hundred and thirty years; and the number of them that went out of Egypt was

about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. And when they departed from Egypt Moses was fourscore years old and Aaron fourscore years and three.

THE RED SEA

Now when Pharaoh had let the people go, God led them not through the land of the warlike Philistines, although that was near; for He said: "Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt." But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea; and the children of Israel went up in ranks of five out of the land of Egypt. And the Lord went before them, by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them in the way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light. He took not away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

And when the people drew near to the Red Sea the Lord commanded Moses to tell them to turn and encamp. "For," He said, "I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he shall follow after; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; so that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord."

When the Israelites had got safely out of Egypt, Pharaoh and his servants repented, and they said: "Why have we done this and let Israel go from serving us?" Wherefore the king made ready his chariot, and took with him his people; with six hundred chosen

chariots, all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. So the Egyptians pursued after the children of Israel, and overtook them encamping by the sea.

And the Israelites were sore afraid, saying to Moses: "Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? Did we not tell thee to let us alone? It had been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

Then Moses answered the people: "Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will show unto you to-day. The Egyptians whom ye have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever."

And the angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel, so that the one came not near the other all the night. It was a cloud and darkness to the hosts of Pharaoh, but to the Israelites it gave light.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind; He made the sea dry land and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground; the waters were a wall unto them, upon their right hand and on their left. But the Egyptians pursued and went in after them to the midst of the sea; even all

Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

And it came to pass in the morning that the Lord looked into the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and He troubled them. He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them heavily. Then they said one to another: "Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fighteth for them against us."

Then Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the waters thereof returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea: there remained not so much as one of them.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians: and Israel feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and his servant Moses.

IN THE WILDERNESS

I

Then sang Moses and the children of Israel unto the Lord this song:

"I will sing unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously. The horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song. He hath become my salvation. Thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed the enemy in pieces. Who is like unto Thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Thou in Thy mercy hast led forth

the people which Thou hast redeemed. Thou hast guided them in Thy strength unto Thy holy habitation. The people shall hear and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestine. Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of Thine arm they shall be still as a stone; till Thy people pass over, O Lord. Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of Thine inheritance."

Then Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and dances.

After this the people went three days in the wilderness and they found no water. And they came to Marah, but they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. And they murmured against Moses, saying: "What shall we drink?" Then he cried unto the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree which, when he had cast it into the waters, the waters became sweet. And in that place God promised that He would not afflict Israel with any of those diseases which He had brought upon the Egyptians. So they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm-trees. And they encamped there by the waters.

And they took their journey from Elim and came into the wilderness of Sin. And because they were hungry, the whole congregation murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying unto them: "Would to God we had died in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh-pots and when we did eat bread to the full! for ye

have brought us forth into this wilderness to die with hunger."

But Moses answered them: "At even ye shall know that the Lord hath brought you out of Egypt. And in the morning ye shall see the glory of the Lord, for He hath heard your murmurings. Behold, your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord."

And it came to pass that at even the quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. And when the dew was gone up, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar-frost upon the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it they said one to another: "This is manna," for they knew not what it was. Then Moses said: "This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat. Gather of it every man according to his eating, according to the number of your persons. Take ye every man for them which are in your tents." And the people did so; and he that gathered much had none over, and he that gathered little had no lack. They gathered it every morning, and when the sun waxed hot it melted. And Moses said: "Let no man leave of it till the morning"; but some hearkened not unto Moses; these left of it till the morning, and it became foul and bred worms, and Moses was wroth. Nevertheless on the sixth day the people gathered twice as much manna, two measures for each man, and they laid it up till the morning as Moses bade them, and it remained good. And some of the people went

out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. The children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land which was inhabited, even unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

II

Now the people came out of the wilderness of Sin and pitched in Rephidim. But there was no water, so that they thirsted there, and murmured against Moses, saying that he had brought them up out of Egypt to kill them and their children and their cattle with thirst. Then when they were almost ready to stone him, Moses called unto the Lord, and God said: "Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel, and thy rod. And when thou art come before the rock of Horeb smite upon it, and there shall come water out of it." And Moses did as the Lord commanded, and smote the rock, and water came from it, so that the people did drink.

Then came Amalek and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said unto Joshua the son of Nun: "Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek; to-morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." And it came to pass that when Moses held up his hand Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy. And they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat down thereon. And Aaron and Hur held up his hands: the one on the one side, and the other

on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Now Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel, His people, and he journeyed with Zipporah, Moses' wife, and her two sons, into the wilderness, and came unto the mount of God where Moses was.

And on the morrow Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood by Moses from the morning to the evening. And Jethro said to him: "What is this thing that thou doest to the people? Why sittest thou thyself alone?" And he answered: "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. When they have a matter they come to me, and I judge between one and another." Then the old man said unto him: "The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt certainly wear away, both thou and this people that is with thee, for this thing is too heavy for thee: thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. Do thou, indeed, teach the statutes of God, and His laws: show them the way wherein they must walk, and the work they must do. But thou shouldst choose from the people able men, such as fear God and are men of truth, and place them over the people, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds; rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. Let them judge the people at all seasons. Every great matter they shall bring unto thee; but every small matter they shall judge. So shall it be

easier for thyself; and they shall bear the burden with thee."

And Moses hearkened to the voice of his father-in-law, and did all that he had said.

III

Now it came to pass in the third month after the people had gone forth out of the land of Egypt that they came into the wilderness of Sinai. Then God called up Moses on to the mountain that he might set His judgments before the people. And God gave him the Ten Commandments, saying: "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I carried you away on eagles' wings, and brought you out here unto Myself. Now, therefore, if ye will indeed obey My voice, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people, for all the earth is Mine. I will send My fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. And I will set thy bounds from the Red Sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and they shall not dwell with thee, lest they make thee sin against Me. For if thou serve their gods, it will certainly be a snare unto thee."

And the Lord said also unto Moses: "See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, so that he shall make beautiful things in gold, in silver, and in brass. And I have given him great skill in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber. Behold, also, I have given him Aholiab, son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, to work with him: together they shall make all that I have commanded thee—the Tabernacle of the Congregation, and the Ark of the Testimony, and the Mercy Seat that is thereupon, and all the furniture of the Tabernacle.

"They shall make the Ark of shittim wood, and overlay it with pure gold within and without, and shall make upon it a crown of gold round about. At the four corners they shall put four rings of gold, and through the rings staves of shittim wood overlaid with gold to carry the Ark. And they shall make the Mercy Seat of pure gold, and two cherubim on the two ends thereof.

"They shall make the Tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, blue, and purple, and scarlet, with beautiful cherubim upon them. There shall be boards of shittim wood standing up, and curtains of goat's hair for a covering: the hanging for the door of the tent shall be of blue, and purple, and scarlet. Round the Tabernacle shall be a court: twenty pillars on the south side, twenty pillars on the north, ten

pillars on the west, and ten pillars on the east. Within the Tabernacle shall be an altar of shittim wood, with a table, the Mercy Seat, and the Ark."

IV

Now it came to pass that while Moses talked with the Lord in the mountain the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron and said: "Up, make us gods which shall go before us: for as for Moses, the man who brought us out of Egypt, we know not what has become of him." And Aaron listened to the people and bade them bring their golden earrings—for these were worn both by men and women—and he melted the gold and fashioned a calf from it and built an altar before it. And the people sacrificed to it with burnt offerings and made a feast.

Then God said unto Moses: "Behold, thy people have corrupted themselves and made gods for themselves, turning aside quickly from My commandments. Now, therefore, let Me alone in My wrath, that I may consume them; and I will make of thee a great nation."

But Moses entreated the Lord for the children of Israel, saying unto Him: "Why should the Egyptian say: 'For mischief did He bring them out, to slay them in the mountains.' Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Thy servants, and Thy promises unto them." And the Lord repented of the evil which He thought to do unto His people.

And Moses turned and went down from the mount, and the two Tables of Testimony were

in his hand. The Tables were written on both their sides: on the one side and on the other were they written. And the Tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the Tables.

But it came to pass when Moses came near to the camp and saw the calf, and the people dancing, that his anger waxed hot, and he cast the Tables out of his hands and broke them. And he took the golden calf and burned it and ground it to powder, and he strewed the powder upon the water and made the people drink of it. Then he bade the sons of Levi go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp and smite with the sword. And of the people there fell about three thousand men that day.

After this Moses besought God to forgive the people, but He said that He would not go in their midst lest He might be tempted to consume them for their sins. Then Moses said: "Wherein shall it be known that I and Thy people have found grace in Thy sight? Is it not because Thou goest with us?" And the Lord said: "Thou hast found grace in My sight; My Presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."

Then God commanded Moses to hew two tables of stone like unto those that were broken, and to go to Him again on the mount. And Moses did so, and remained forty days and forty nights with God on Mount Sinai. And God graved upon the tables the Ten Commandments which were His covenant with Israel. And when Moses returned to the camp

his face shone so that the people feared him, wherefore he veiled his face while he spoke to them.

Then they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and brought gifts wherewith to set up the Tabernacle, according as God had directed Moses; and so abundantly did they offer that Moses caused it to be proclaimed that no more gifts were needed. The Tabernacle was set up without the camp, and the glory of the Lord filled it. His cloud was upon it by day and His fire by night throughout all the journeyings of Israel. When the cloud was removed from over the Tabernacle the people went onward; when it stayed they remained in the camp.

And God bade Moses consecrate Aaron and his sons to the service of the Tabernacle.

V

Now after a time it came to pass that Korah, one of the sons of Levi (who were the priests of Israel) took men, and they gathered themselves against Moses and against Aaron. Two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly were they, famous in the congregation, men of renown. And they said: "Ye take too much upon you, for all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Wherefore then do ye lift up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord?" But Moses said unto the people: "Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all

their sins. Hereby shall ye know that the Lord hath sent me to do all these works. For I have not done them by my own hand."

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that the earth opened her mouth under Korah and his people, under their wives and their sons and their little children. And they were all swallowed up, and all that belonged to them went down alive into the pit; and the earth closed upon them, and they perished. Then there came a fire from God and consumed also the two hundred and fifty men that had been with Korah.

And all the people round about fled, for they said: "Lest the earth swallow us also."

Then God spake unto Moses, saying: "Speak unto the children of Israel and let them take a rod for every tribe of all their princes according to the house of their fathers, twelve rods. And thou shalt lay them up in the Tabernacle where I will meet with you. And it shall come to pass that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom, and I will make the people to cease murmuring against Me."

Then Moses laid up the rods before the Lord in the Tabernacle as God had commanded. And it came to pass that on the morrow, behold, the rod of Aaron (for the house of Levi) was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. And they kept it for a token against the rebels. Wherefore Aaron and his brethren of the tribe of Levi were set apart as a gift for the Lord, to do the service of the Tabernacle.

VI

And the children of Israel came into the desert of Zin. In this place Miriam died and was buried. And there was no water. And the people rebuked Moses, saying: "Why have ye made us come out of Egypt to bring us unto this evil place? It is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates, neither is there any water to drink."

Then God bade Moses take Aaron's rod and gather the people together before a rock and speak unto it. Thus it should give forth water for the congregation and for their beasts. And Moses and Aaron gathered the people, and Moses said: "Hear now, ye rebels, must we fetch you water out of this rock?" And Moses lifted Aaron's rod in his hand, and smote the rock twice. And the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

VII

And the Lord was angry with Moses and Aaron because they had not fulfilled His commands as He had directed them, and He said: "Therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them."

The time was nigh when the people were to lose one of the two great leaders who had guided them so far on their journey to the Promised Land. God bade Moses take Aaron and Eleazar, his son, up unto Mount Hor, and strip Aaron of his garments and put them upon

Eleazar, for the time had come for Aaron to be gathered unto his people. So Aaron died on the top of the mount, and all the congregation mourned for him thirty days.

After this the people went on with much weariness of soul. They thought of the bread and water of Egypt and spake against the food which God provided. Then the Lord sent fiery serpents in their midst and many died, wherefore the people confessed their sins and implored Moses to ask God to remove the plague. And God heard Moses and bade him set up on a pole a serpent of brass, that he that was bitten, when he looked upon it, might live.

And so again the children of Israel went forward, taking many cities, until they came to the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho. And Balak, king of Moab, sent unto Balaam that he might come and curse the people. For Moab was sore afraid. And after he had received much money and rich presents, Balaam rose up, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. But the angel of the Lord stood in the way against him. And the ass saw the angel of the Lord, with his sword drawn in his hand; and she turned from the way and went into the field. But Balaam smote the ass and turned her again into the way. Then the angel of the Lord stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on the other side. And the ass thrust herself into the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; and he smote

her again. And the angel of the Lord went farther, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. And when the ass saw him she fell down under Balaam, and Balaam smote the ass angrily with a staff.

Then God opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam: "What have I done unto thee that thou hast smitten me these three times?" And Balaam said: "Because thou hast mocked me. I would there were a sword in my hand, for now would I kill thee." But the ass answered him, saying: "Am I not thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? Have I ever done so unto thee?" And he said: "Nay."

Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in his way and his sword drawn in his hand; and he bowed down his head and fell flat on his face. And the angel of the Lord said unto him: "Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? Unless she had turned from me, surely I would have slain thee and saved her alive." And Balaam said unto the angel of the Lord: "I have sinned."

Wherefore when Balaam came unto Balak and the king desired him to curse Israel, he said: "How shall I curse whom God hath not cursed?" Twice did he speak of the blessedness of Israel, and a third time he declared: "Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel. Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion and lift

himself up as a young lion. God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of a unicorn; he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows. Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee."

And though Balak offered him much silver and gold, yet would he not curse the children of Israel.

VIII

But neither the fear of God nor His promises prevailed with His people to cause them to obey His commandments. Wherefore God sent a plague into the camp, and there died twenty and four thousand.

And it came to pass after the plague that the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Eleazar, saying: "Take the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, from twenty years and upward, throughout their fathers' house, all that are able to go to war in Israel." And among those who were numbered there was not a man whom Moses and Aaron had numbered when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai. For the Lord had said of them: "They shall surely die in the wilderness." And there was not left a man of them except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

THE PROMISED LAND

THE PASSING OF JORDAN

NOW it came to pass that the Lord said unto Moses: "Get thee up into the Mount Abarim and look upon the land which I have given to the children of Israel. And when thou hast seen it, thou also shalt die, as Aaron thy brother died. For ye rebelled against My commandment in the desert of Zin."

Then Moses spake unto the Lord, saying: "Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation; who may go out before them, and may go in before them, who may bring them out, and who may bring them in; so that the congregation of the Lord be not as sheep without a shepherd."

And God said: "Take thee Joshua, the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him. And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation, and give him a charge in their sight. And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation may be obedient. At his word shall they go out, and at his word shall they come in."

And Moses did as the Lord commanded him. To Joshua he said: "Be strong and of a good courage, for thou shalt bring the children of

Israel into the land, even the land of Canaan, with the coasts thereof." Then Moses went up to the top of Mount Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the Lord showed him the Promised Land, even the whole extent of it unto the utmost sea. And Moses died on the mountain, as God had said. And he was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural strength abated. And the children of Israel mourned for Moses in the plains of Moab, thirty days.

And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto Joshua saying: "Moses My servant is dead, now therefore arise, go over Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give them. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life. As I was with Moses, so will I be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Then Joshua bade the officers pass through the host and command the people, saying: "Prepare you food, for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God giveth you."

And Joshua sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, to view the land of Jericho. And they came unto the house of a woman named Rahab, and lodged there. But it was told the king, and he sent unto Rahab, saying: "Bring forth the men that have come to thee, and entered into thine house." But she took the two men, and hid them, and said thus: "There came men unto me, but I know not whence they came. And it came to pass,

about the time of the shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out. Whither the men went I know not. Pursue after them quickly, for ye shall overtake them."

But she had brought them up to the roof, and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof. Then as soon as they which pursued them were gone, she came up unto the men and said: "I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us. Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have showed you kindness, that you will also show kindness to my father's house. Save alive, I pray you, my father, my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and deliver our lives from death." And they answered: "If you tell no man of our business, then we will swear."

Then she let them down by a cord through the window, for her house was upon the town wall. And they escaped and hid in the mountain for three days; after which they descended, and passed over and came to Joshua, and told him all the things that had happened to them.

Then Joshua spake unto the priests, saying: "Take up the Ark and pass over before the people; and when ye come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan." Now Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest; but when the feet of the priests were dipped in the water, the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap, and those that came down toward the sea of the plain failed and were cut off.

And the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground right against Jericho.

Then the Lord spake unto Joshua, saying: "Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man; and command ye them, saying: 'Take ye hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones; and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging-place where ye shall lodge this night. And when your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, "What mean these stones?" then ye shall let your children know, saying: "Israel came over this Jordan on dry land."'"

And it came to pass when the priests that carried the Ark of the Covenant came out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up on to the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before.

THE FALL OF JERICHO

Now when all the kings of the Amorites, who were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of Jordan while the children of Israel passed over, their hearts melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of Israel. And the people encamped in Gilgal,

and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. And they ate of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day. And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land, neither had the children of Israel manna any more.

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes, and behold, there stood a man over against him, with his sword drawn in his hand. And Joshua went unto him and said: "Art thou for us or for our enemies?" And he said: "Nay, but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come." Then Joshua fell on his face and did worship.

The city of Jericho was now closely besieged. Because of Israel none went out, and none came in. And the Lord said unto Joshua: "See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. And ye shall surround the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do on six days. And seven priests shall carry before the Ark seven trumpets of rams' horns; and the seventh day ye shall surround the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall go up every man straight before him."

So Joshua said unto the people: "March ye round the city; let him who is armed pass on before the Ark of the Lord. Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your mouth, until the day I bid you shout: then shall ye shout." So the people did for six days: each day with the Ark of the Lord they went around the city once; after which they came and lodged in the camp.

And it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and surrounded the city after the same manner; only on that day they went about it seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people: "Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city. And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein. Only Rahab shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. But all the silver and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, shall come into the treasury of the Lord."

So when the priests blew with the trumpets the people shouted with a great shout, and behold, the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him. And they utterly destroyed all that were in the city. But Joshua had said to the two men that had spied out the country: "Go into the woman's house, and bring out thence the woman and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her." And the two young men went in and brought out Rahab and all her kindred, and left them in safety without the camp of

Israel. And the people burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein; only the silver and gold, and the vessels of brass and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord.

And Joshua said unto the people: "Cursed be the man before the Lord that riseth up and buildeth anew this city Jericho." So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was noised throughout all the country.

THE SUN AND THE MOON STAND STILL

Now when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho they went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine-bottles, old and torn and bound up. They put old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them, and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy.

And they went up to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal and said: "We be come from a far country; now therefore make ye a league with us." But the men of Israel answered: "Perchance ye dwell among us, and how shall we make a league with you?" And they said unto Joshua: "We are thy servants." And Joshua said unto them: "Who are ye? and whence come ye?" And they answered: "From a very far country thy servants have come because of the name of the Lord thy God; for we have heard the fame of Him, and all that He did in Egypt, and all that He did to the kings who

are beyond Jordan. Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake unto us, saying: 'Take food with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them: "We are your servants, therefore now make ye a league with us."' This our bread we took hot for our food out of our houses on the day we came forth to meet you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is mouldy. And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and behold, they are torn; and these our garments and our shoes have become old by reason of the very long journey."

And Joshua asked not God, but made peace with them, to let them live, and the princes of the congregation sware unto them.

But at the end of three days after they had made the league they heard that the Gibeonites were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them.

And it came to pass, when the children of Israel journeyed, and came to their cities on the third day, that they smote them not, wherefore all the congregation murmured against the princes. But the princes answered: "We have sworn unto them, therefore we may not touch them. This we will do; we will even let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath which we sware unto them. But let them be hewers of wood and drawers of water unto all the congregation." And Joshua called for them and he spake unto them, saying: "Wherefore have ye deceived us, saying you were very far from us, when ye dwelt among us? Now there-

fore ye are accursed, and there shall none of you be freed from being bondmen, and hewers of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God."

Now the five kings of the Amorites who dwelt in the mountains gathered their people together against the Gibeonites for that they had made a league with Israel. But Joshua went up from Gilgal all night and came upon them suddenly. And as they fled before Israel the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them, and they were more who died with hailstones than those whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

Then spake Joshua to the Lord, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon!" And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had revenged themselves upon their enemies. The sun stood still in the midst of the heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, on which the Lord listened to the voice of a man, because the Lord fought for Israel.

So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by the tribes. And the land rested from war. And it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being an hundred and ten years old.

UNDER THE JUDGES

SAMSON

IT came to pass after a time that the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines even for forty years.

Now there was a man named Manoah, of the family of the Danites, who had no children; and an angel of the Lord appeared unto his wife, saying: "If thou wilt hearken unto my words God will send thee a son. Take heed therefore and drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat not of any unclean thing. No razor shall come on thy child's head, for he shall be a Nazarite to God to the day of his death; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

And when her son was born the woman called him Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him.

Now when Samson had grown to manhood he went down to Timnath, and saw a woman of the daughters of the Philistines, and he told his father and his mother, saying: "Now therefore get her for me to wife." But they said: "Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the Philistines?" Truly

they knew not that God had sent him to her that he might entrap the Philistines.

Nevertheless they went down to Timnath; and as Samson came into the vineyards, a young lion roared against him. Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, so that he rent the lion as he would have rent a kid, though he had nothing in his hand. But he told not his father or his mother what he had done. And after a time he came again by that same way, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion, and lo, there was a swarm of bees and honey therein. And he took the honey in his hands and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and gave to them; but he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the carcase of the lion.

After this Samson made a feast for his marriage, for so used the young men to do. And the kindred of the young woman brought thirty companions to be with him. And Samson said: "Now I will put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it unto me within the seven days of the feast, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty changes of garments. But if ye cannot declare it unto me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty changes of garments." And they answered: "Put forth thy riddle that we may hear it."

And he said: "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." And they could not explain the riddle, so on the seventh day they said unto Samson's wife: "Entice thy husband that he may tell us the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire."

And Samson's wife wept before him and said: "Thou dost hate me and lovest me not: thou hast put forth a riddle unto the children of my people and hast not told it me." And he said: "Behold, I have not told my father or my mother: shall I tell it to thee?" But because of her weeping Samson was wearied and at last told her, and straightway she told the riddle to the children of her people.

And on the seventh day before the sun went down the men of the city answered Samson: "What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion?" And he said unto them: "If ye had not ploughed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle." And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and slew thirty Philistines, and took their spoil, and gave their changes of garments unto them that had solved his riddle. But his anger was kindled against his wife, and she returned unto her father.

And it came to pass within a while after, in the time of the wheat harvest, that Samson came again to the land of the Philistines. He caught three hundred foxes and turned them tail to tail, and took firebrands, and put one in the midst between two tails. And the foxes with the flaming brands rushed into the standing corn, and burnt up both the shocks and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives. Moreover he smote the Philistines hip and thigh with a great slaughter; and he went down and dwelt on the top of the rock Etam.

Then the Philistines went up and pitched in Judah; and the men of Judah said unto them: "Why are ye come up against us?" They answered: "To bind Samson are we come up." Wherefore three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson: "Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? What is this that thou hast brought upon us?" And he said: "As they did unto me, so have I done unto them." And they said: "We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines." And Samson answered: "Swear that ye will not fall upon me yourselves." Then they sware unto him, and bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock.

And when he came to the camp of the Philistines, they shouted against him; but the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that is burnt with fire, and the bands were loosened from off his hands. And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand and took it, and slew a thousand men with it. And after that he thirsted, and so great was his thirst that he called on the Lord, and said: "Thou hast given this great deliverance unto Thy servant, but now shall I die of thirst?" And God made water to gush from out of the jawbone, and when he had drunk his spirit revived.

Then went Samson to Gaza, and the Gazites laid wait for him all night in the gate of the

city, saying: "In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him." But Samson arose at midnight and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of a hill that is before Hebron.

And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came to Delilah and said: "Tempt him, and find out wherein his great strength lieth, and how we may prevail against him that we may bind him. Then will we give thee, every one of us, eleven hundred pieces of silver."

Then Delilah said unto Samson: "Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth." And Samson answered her: "If they bind me with seven new cords that have never been dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man." So the lords of the Philistines brought seven new cords to her and they hid men in the room. Then Delilah bound Samson and said unto him: "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson." And he broke the cords, as a thread of tow is broken when it touches the fire.

And Delilah reproached Samson and said: "Behold, thou hast mocked me and told me lies; now tell me, I pray thee, what it is can bind thee." And he said: "If they bind me with new ropes that have never been used, then shall I be weak, and be as another man." Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him, saying: "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson." And he broke the ropes off his arms like

a thread. And again Delilah said unto Samson: "Thou hast mocked me and told me lies; tell me now truly what will bind thee." And he said unto her: "If thou weavest the seven locks of my hair with a web." So while he slept she bound his hair, and fastened it with the pin of the beam, and awakened him suddenly. But he went away with the pin of the beam and the web.

And Delilah said yet again: "How canst thou say, 'I love thee,' when thine heart is not with me? Thou hast mocked me these three times and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth." And it came to pass that she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death. Then he told her all his heart, and said unto her: "There hath never come a razor on my head, for I have been a Nazarite from my birth. If I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man." And when Delilah saw that he had indeed told her all that was in his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying: "Come up this once, for he hath showed me all that is in his heart."

Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. And she persuaded Samson to sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head, so that his strength went from him. And she said: "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson." And he awoke out of his sleep, saying: "I will go out as at other times before, and shake

myself." For he knew not that the Lord was departed from him.

But the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house. Nevertheless, the hair of his head began to grow again.

Then the lords of the Philistines came together to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice; for they said: "Our god hath delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hand."

And it came to pass, when they were merry, that they called for Samson and fetched him out of the prison house to make them sport; and they set him between the pillars of the house. And Samson said to the lad that held him by the hand: "Let me feel the pillars that I may lean upon them." Now the house was full of men and women; all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, who looked on while Samson made sport. And Samson called unto the Lord and said: "O Lord God, remember me, I pray Thee, and strengthen me, I pray Thee, only this once, O God, that I may be avenged upon the Philistines for my two eyes."

And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up. And he said: "Let me die with the Philistines." And he bowed himself with all his might, and the house fell upon the lords of the Philistines and upon all the people who were therein; so that the

dead which he slew at his death were more than all which he had slain in his life. Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and buried him in the burying-place of Manoah his father.

RUTH

Now in the days when the judges were ruling Israel a certain man of Bethlehem went to dwell in the country of Moab; he, and his wife, and their two sons. And the man died, leaving Naomi his wife, with her two sons. And the sons took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other was Ruth. Now after a time Naomi's two sons died also, and she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return unto the land of Judah.

And when they had journeyed but a little way, Naomi said to her daughters-in-law: "Go, return each to her mother's house, and may the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voice, and wept. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and turned back, but Ruth clave unto her. And Naomi said: "Behold, thy sister-in-law has gone back unto her people and unto her gods: return thou also." But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee. For whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. Where thou

diest, will I die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."

So they two went on until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass that all the city was moved about them, and the people said: "Is this Naomi?" But she answered, saying: "Call me not Naomi [which is to say, 'pleasant'], but call me Mara [that is, 'bitter'], for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me."

Now Naomi had a wealthy kinsman of her husband's named Boaz. And because it was the beginning of the barley harvest, Ruth said unto Naomi: "Let me now go to the field and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace." And Naomi said: "Go, my daughter."

And she went, and came and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she came unto that part of the field which belonged to Boaz. And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers: "The Lord be with you." And they answered him: "The Lord bless thee." Then said Boaz unto his servant who was set over the reapers: "Whose damsel is this?" And the servant answered: "It is the Moabitish damsel who came back with Naomi out of the land of Moab. She said: 'I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers'; so she hath continued even from the morning." And Boaz said unto Ruth: "Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not

to glean in another field, neither go from hence; but abide here, close by my maidens. Let thine eyes be upon the field that they reap, and go thou after them. And when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels and drink of that which the young men have drawn." Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him: "Why have I found grace in thine eyes, so that thou shouldst notice me, seeing I am a stranger?" And Boaz answered her: "I have been told all that thou hast done for thy mother-in-law, since the death of thy husband, and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land where thou wast born, and art come to a people whom thou knewest not heretofore. May the Lord bless thy work, and may a full reward be given thee by the Lord God of Israel, under Whose wings thou art come to trust."

And she said: "Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord, because thou has comforted me and spoken kindly unto thine handmaiden, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens."

And Boaz said again: "At meal-time come hither and eat of the bread." And she sat beside the reapers, and he reached her parched corn, and she was satisfied, and left. Then Boaz commanded his young men, saying: "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not. And let fall also some of the handfuls on purpose for her, and leave them, so that she may glean them, and rebuke her not."

So Ruth gleaned in the field until even, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was much

barley. And she took it up and went into the city, and she gave to her mother-in-law all that was left, after she was satisfied.

And Naomi asked: "Where hast thou gleaned to-day? Blessed be he that took notice of thee." And she answered: "The man's name in whose field I gleaned is Boaz; and he said unto me: 'Thou shalt keep close by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.'" And Naomi said: "Blessed be he of the Lord, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. The man is one of our nearest kinsmen. It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field."

So Ruth kept close to the maidens of Boaz, and gleaned with them until the end of the barley harvest and of the wheat harvest.

After this Naomi said: "My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? Now is not Boaz of our kindred? Behold, he winnoweth barley to-night in the threshing-floor. Therefore put on thy best raiment and go down unto him; for surely thou hast found favour in his sight." And she did according to all that her mother-in-law bade her. And Boaz said unto her: "Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter. It is true that I am a near kinsman, but there is a kinsman nearer than I. So shall it be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; but if not, then will I, as the Lord liveth."

And when Ruth returned to her mother-in-law, she told her all that Boaz had said. And Naomi

said: "Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall; for the man will not be at rest till he have finished this thing this day."

Then Boaz went up to the gate, and sat him down, and presently the kinsman of whom he had spoken came by. "Ho!" said he, "turn aside, sit down here." And he turned aside, and sat down. Then Boaz bade ten men of the elders of the city come near and sit down also. And when they were seated he said to the kinsman: "Naomi, who has come again out of the land of Moab, hath a parcel of land to sell. Wilt thou buy it, before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people? If thou wilt not redeem it, tell me, that I may know, for thou hast the first right to redeem it; I am after thee." And the man said: "I will redeem it." Then said Boaz: "When thou buyest the field from the hand of Naomi, thou must take also her daughter-in-law, Ruth, the Moabitess, to be thy wife." But the kinsman was not willing to do this, and he said unto Boaz: "Buy it for me"; and for a testimony he drew off his shoe and gave it to Boaz. For this was the custom in former time in Israel, concerning an agreement.

And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people: "Ye are witnesses to-day that I have bought all that was her husband's from Naomi. Moreover I will take Ruth, the Moabitess, to be my wife." And all the people who were in the gate, and the elders, said: "We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman who is come into thy house like Rachel and like Leah, which two

did build the house of Israel; and mayest thou do worthily, and become famous in Bethlehem."

So Boaz took Ruth for his wife: and she had a son and called him Obed. And the women said unto Naomi: "Blessed be the Lord, Who hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age; for thy daughter who loveth thee, who is better to thee than seven sons, hath given him to thee."

Now Obed became the father of Jesse, who was the father of David.

THE STORY OF SAMUEL

When Eli was the High Priest in Israel, a certain man of Mount Ephraim, Elkanah, came, with Hannah his wife, to the Temple; and she vowed a vow, saying: "O Lord of Hosts, if Thou wilt indeed look upon Thine handmaid, and remember me, and wilt give me a man-child, then will I give him unto Thee all the days of his life." And God hearkened unto the prayer of Hannah. Therefore, when the child was born, his mother called his name Samuel, which means, 'Asked of God.' And she brought the child unto Eli, saying: "O my lord, as my soul liveth, I am the woman that stood by thee praying unto God. For this child I prayed, and God has given me my petition that I asked of Him. Therefore as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord." And in due time the child ministered unto the Lord

before Eli. And his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

Now Eli was very old, and it came to pass that one night when he was laid down in his place, his eyes began to grow dim, so that he could not see. And before the lamp of God went out in the Temple of the Lord, where the Ark of God was, Samuel was laid down to sleep.

Then the Lord called: "Samuel"; and he answered: "Here am I." And he ran unto Eli and said: "Here am I; for you called me." But Eli answered: "I called not. Lie down again." And he went and lay down. And the Lord called yet again: "Samuel." And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said: "Here am I, for you did call me." And he answered: "I called not, my son; lie down again."

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said: "Here am I, for you did call me." And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child. Therefore he said unto Samuel: "Go, lie down, and it shall be, if He call thee, that thou shalt say: 'Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came and called as at other times: "Samuel, Samuel." Then Samuel answered: "Speak, for Thy servant heareth."

And the Lord said unto Samuel: "Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears

of every one that heareth it shall tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken about his house. When I begin, I will also make an end. For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever because of the wickedness of which he knoweth: because his sons made themselves vile, and he forbade them not."

And Samuel lay until the morning, when he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And he feared to show Eli the vision. Then Eli called Samuel and said: "Samuel, my son." And he answered: "Here am I." And Eli said: "What is the thing that the Lord hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me. God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide anything from me of all the things that He said unto thee." And Samuel told him every word, and hid nothing from him. And Eli said: "It is the Lord; let Him do what seemeth to Him good."

And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord.

Now it came to pass that Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and was smitten before them, and of the army of the Israelites in the field were slain about four thousand men. And when the people came into the camp the elders said: "Wherefore hath the Lord smitten us to-day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord

out of Shiloh, so that when it cometh among us it may save us out of the hands of our enemies."

Then when the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, with Eli's sons, came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again. And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they were afraid, saying: "Woe unto us! Who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness. Be strong, all ye Philistines, that we be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Quit yourselves like men, and fight."

And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent. And there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand men. And the Ark of God was taken, and the sons of Eli were slain.

And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes torn and with earth upon his head. He came hastily unto where Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside waiting anxiously, and he said: "Israel hath fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Thy two sons also are dead, and the Ark of God is taken." Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see. And when the man made mention of the Ark of God, he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck broke and he died, for he was an old man and heavy.

Then the Philistines took the Ark and brought

it from Eben-ezer to Ashdod, into the house of their own god, and set it beside Dagon. And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow morning, lo, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the Ark of the Lord; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold. Only the stump of Dagon was left to him. And the hand of the Lord was heavy upon the men of Ashdod, and He destroyed them.

And when they saw that it was so, they said: "The Ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us, for His hand is sore upon us and upon Dagon our god." They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines and said: "What shall we do with the Ark of the God of Israel?" And the lords answered: "Let the Ark of the God of Israel be carried unto Gath." And behold, the hand of the Lord was against the city with a very great destruction; He smote the men of the city both small and great. Therefore the men of Gath sent the Ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass when the Ark of God came to Ekron that the Ekronites cried out: "They have brought the Ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people." And truly there was a deadly destruction among them; the hand of God was very heavy there; and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

And the Ark of the Lord was in the country of the Philistines seven months. And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying: "What shall we do to the

Ark of the Lord? Tell us wherewith we shall send it to His place." And the priests and diviners said: "If ye send away the Ark of the God of Israel, send it not away empty; but in any case send Him a trespass offering; then shall ye be healed, and it shall be known to you why His hand is not removed from you.

"Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch cows, on which there has come no yoke, and tie the cows to the cart, and bring their calves home from them. Then take the Ark of the Lord, and lay it upon the cart, and put the jewels which ye return Him for a trespass offering in a box by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go." And the men did so. And the cows took the straight way, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or the left until they came to the great stone of Abel, where they stood.

Then the men of that place caused the Ark of the Lord to be carried thence, and it was brought into the house of Abinadab on the hill; and Eleazar, the son of Abinadab the Levite, was sanctified to keep the Ark. And the time it stayed there was long, for it was twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.

Then Samuel spake unto the house of Israel, saying: "If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve Him only, and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

Gather ye now unto Mizpeh and I will pray for you unto the Lord." And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said: "We have sinned against the Lord."

And when the Philistines heard that the people were gathered together in Mizpeh, they went up against Israel. And the children of Israel were afraid. But Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it wholly unto the Lord, and he cried unto the Lord for Israel, and the Lord heard him. And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering the Philistines drew near to battle; but the Lord thundered with a great thunder upon the Philistines, and put them to flight, and they were smitten before Israel. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them. Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer (that is, 'the Stone of Help'), saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel; and the hand of the Lord was against them all the days of Samuel. And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life; even at Ramah, for there was his house, and there he built an altar unto the Lord.

KINGS OF ISRAEL

SAUL

NOW when Samuel was old he made his sons judges over Israel; but they did not walk in their father's ways, they turned aside after money and took bribes, and were unjust. So it came to pass that the elders of Israel came to Samuel, unto Ramah, and said: "Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." But the thing displeased Samuel, and he prayed unto the Lord. And the Lord said: "Hearken unto the voice of the people in all they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee; they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. Therefore hearken unto their voice: yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them." So Samuel told all the words of the Lord unto the elders. And he said: "This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you. He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen, and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to till his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to

make his instruments of war, and the instruments of his chariots. And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. And he will take the tenth part of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers and to his servants. And he will take your men-servants and your maid-servants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your sheep, and ye shall be his servants. And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen, and the Lord will not hear you in that day."

Nevertheless the people refused to hearken unto Samuel. They said: "Nay, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles." And Samuel said unto the men of Israel: "Go ye every man unto his city."

Now there was a man of the tribe of Benjamin, whose name was Kish. And he had a son whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly, and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier man than he; from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

And the asses of Kish, Saul's father, were lost, wherefore Kish said unto Saul: "Take now one of the servants with thee and arise, go seek the asses." But when they had journeyed

a far distance and could not find them, Saul said to his servant that was with him: "Come, let us return, lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us."

And the servant answered him: "Behold now, there is in the city before us a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass. Now let us go thither; perhaps he can tell us our way that we should go."

They went therefore unto the city where the man of God was; and behold, as they entered the gate Samuel came out against them, for to go up into the high place.

Now the Lord had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying: "To-morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over My people Israel, that he may save My people out of the hand of the Philistines." And when Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said unto him: "Behold the man whom I spoke to thee of: this man shall reign over My people."

Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate and said: "Tell me, I pray thee, where the prophet's house is." And Samuel answered: "I am the prophet. Go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to-day, and to-morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart. And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them, for they are found. But on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?"

And Saul answered: "Am not I a Benjamite,

of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Wherefore then speakest thou so to me?"

And Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them in, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day. Then they came down from the high place into the city, and Samuel talked with Saul upon the top of the house. And it came to pass about the spring of the next day that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying: "Up, that I may send thee away." And they went out, both of them. And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul: "Bid the servant pass on, but stand thou still awhile, that I may show thee the word of God."

And when the servant had passed on Samuel took a phial of oil, and poured it upon the head of Saul, and kissed him, saying: "Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over His inheritance? When thou art departed from me to-day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin; and they will say unto thee: 'The asses which thou wentest to seek are found; and lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for thee, saying: "What shall I do for my son?"' Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to Bethel, one carrying three kids, and

another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine. And they will greet thee, and give thee two loaves of bread, which thou shalt receive from their hands. After that thou shalt come to the hill of God; and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery and a tabour and a pipe and a harp before them, and they shall prophesy.

"And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs are come to thee, that thou do as seemeth good in thine own eyes, for God is with thee.

"And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and show thee what thou shalt do."

And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave to Saul another heart, and all those signs came to pass that day.

Then when the people saw that Saul prophesied among the prophets they said one to another: "What is this that is come unto the son of Kish?" So that it became a proverb: "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

When these things had come to pass Samuel called the people together to Mizpeh, and said unto them: "Thus saith the Lord: 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the

hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you. And ye have this day rejected your God, Who Himself saved you out of all your tribulations, and ye have said unto Him: "Nay, but set a king over us." Now therefore present yourself before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands.'"

And when Samuel had caused all the tribes to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. But they called for Saul the son of Kish, and he could not be found. Wherefore they ran and fetched Saul, and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. And Samuel said to all the people: "See ye him whom the Lord hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people?" And all the multitude shouted: "God save the king!"

Now when Saul had reigned for two years, he chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with him in Mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan his son in Gibeah of Benjamin; the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent. And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba.

Then the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude.

Now it came to pass upon a day that Jonathan said unto the young man that carried his armour: "Come and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side."

But he told not his father. And Jonathan said to the young man: "Come, now, and let us go over; for it may be that the Lord will work for us; for the Lord can save His people by many or by few."

And the armour-bearer said: "Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee, according to thy heart." Then said Jonathan: "We will go over to these men, and we will show ourselves to them. And if they say thus unto us, 'Tarry until we come to you,' then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up to them. But if they say, 'Come up unto us,' then we will go up, for the Lord hath delivered them into our hand, and this shall be a sign unto us."

And the young men went over and discovered themselves to the garrison; and the Philistines answered Jonathan and his armour-bearer, saying: "Come up to us and we will show you a thing." So Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and his feet, and his armour-bearer after him; and the Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armour-bearer slew after him. And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armour-bearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, which a yoke of oxen might plough. And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked; so it was a very great trembling.

And Saul with all the people that were with him assembled themselves, and they came to

the battle; and behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, and there was a very great victory. Moreover the Hebrews that were with the Philistines before that time, who had gone up with them into the camp from the country round about, even they also turned to be with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. Likewise all the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in Mount Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle. So the Lord saved Israel that day. Then Saul went up from following the Philistines, and the Philistines went to their own place.

Now the men of Israel were distressed that day, because Saul had commanded the people, saying: "Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies"; so none of the people tasted any food. But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath, wherefore as they passed through a wood he ate of honey from an honeycomb. And his eyes were opened, and he bade the people eat also. And they flew upon the spoil, and took sheep and oxen and calves, and slew them on the ground.

But when they told Saul how that the people had eaten, he said unto them: "Draw ye near hither all the chief of the people, and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day. For as the Lord liveth, Who saved Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die." But there was not a man among all the people that answered him. Then he said unto all

Israel: "Be ye on one side, and I and my son Jonathan will be on the other side. And may the Lord God of Israel give a perfect lot." And the lot fell to Saul and Jonathan, but the people escaped. Then Saul said: "Cast lots between me and Jonathan my son." And Jonathan was taken. Then Saul said to Jonathan: "Tell me what thou hast done." And Jonathan told him, and said: "I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand, and lo, I must die." And Saul answered: "God do so to me, and more also; for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan."

And the people said unto Saul: "Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid. As the Lord liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day." And the people rescued Jonathan from Saul.

So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side; and wherever he turned himself, he vexed them. Yet Saul obeyed not all the commandments of the Lord, wherefore God rejected him from reigning over Israel, and the Spirit of God departed from him.

DAVID'S HARP

Now Samuel mourned for Saul that the Lord had turned away His face from the king, and the Lord said unto Samuel: "How long wilt thou mourn for Saul? Fill thine horn with oil and go, and I will send thee to Jesse the

Bethlehemite, for I have provided Me a king among his sons." And Samuel did that which the Lord spake, and came to Bethlehem. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and called them to the sacrifice. And when they were come, he looked on Eliab, the son of Jesse, saying: "Surely the Lord's anointed is before me." But the Lord said unto Samuel: "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature, because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel; but he said: "Neither hath the Lord chosen this." Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by; and he said: "Neither hath the Lord chosen this." Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel; but Samuel said: "The Lord hath not chosen these." Then Samuel asked Jesse: "Are here all thy children?" And he said: "There remaineth yet the youngest, and behold, he keepeth the sheep." And Samuel said: "Send and fetch him, for we will not sit down till he cometh." Now David, the youngest son, was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to, and when he was brought in the Lord said: "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel anointed David in the midst of his brethren, and the Spirit of the Lord was upon David from that day forward.

And Saul's servants said unto him: "Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. Let our lord now command thy servants, which

are before thee, to seek out a man who is a cunning player on an harp; and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well." And Saul said unto his servants: "Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me." Then answered one of the servants: "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, a man of war, and prudent in all things. Withal he is a comely person, and the Lord is with him." So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said: "Send me David thy son, that is with the sheep." And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David, his son, unto Saul. And David came to Saul, and stood before him; and Saul loved him greatly, and made him his armour-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying: "Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight." And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp and played with his hand; so that Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and Saul and the men of Israel set the battle in array against them. And the Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other

side, and there was a valley between them. And there went out of the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.[1] And he had a helmet of brass on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. And he had armour of brass on his legs and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And one carrying a shield went before him.

And he stood and cried in a loud voice unto the armies of Israel: "Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? Am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? Choose ye a man, and let him come down to me. And if he be able to fight with me and to kill me, then will we be your servants; but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." This did Goliath, morning and evening, forty days, and Saul and all the men of Israel were dismayed.

Now the three eldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle, but David had returned from the host to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. One day Jesse said to David his son: "Take now for thy brethren some of this parched corn and these ten loaves and run to the camp. And carry these ten

[1] About eleven feet and a half.

cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and see how thy brethren fare."

So David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took and went, as Jesse bade him: and he came to the trench as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle; for Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. And David left his vessels in the hands of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army and came and kissed his brethren. And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to his wont, and David heard the challenge. And all the men of Israel, when they saw Goliath, fled from him and were sore afraid.

And the men of Israel said: "Have ye seen this man that is come up? Surely to defy Israel is he come up; and it shall be that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel." And David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying: "What shall be done to the man who killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? For who is this Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" And the people answered: "It is even as we have said. So shall it be done to the man who killeth him."

And Eliab, David's eldest brother, heard when he spake unto the men, and Eliab's anger was kindled against David; and he said:

"Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle." And David said: "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"

But the words were heard which David spake, and they were repeated before Saul, and Saul sent for him. And David spake unto Saul: "Let no man's heart fail because of this Goliath; thy servant will go and fight with him." But Saul said unto David: "Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for thou art but a youth and he a man of war from his youth." But David answered: "Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock. And I went out after him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear; and this Goliath of the Philistines shall be as one of them, seeing that he hath defied the armies of the living God. The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine."

And Saul said unto David: "Go, and the Lord be with thee."

And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he tried

to go forth. But the armour was too heavy for him, and he said unto Saul: "I cannot go with these, for I have not proved them." And David put them off him.

And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. And Goliath came on and drew near to David; and the man that carried his shield went before. And when Goliath looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And he cried to David: "Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with a staff?" And he cursed David by his gods. Moreover he cried to David: "Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field." Then cried David: "Thou comest against me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, Whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the hosts of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

And it came to pass, when Goliath arose, and

came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted and ran toward the army to meet him. And David put his hand in his bag and took thence a stone, and slung it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over Goliath with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him. But there was no sword in the hand of David; therefore David ran and stood upon Goliath, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. And the men of Israel and of Judah arose and shouted and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron. And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents. Then David took the head of Goliath, and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armour into his tent.

And when Saul saw David go forth unto Goliath, he said to Abner, the captain of the host: "Whose son is this youth?" And Abner said: "As thy soul liveth, O King, I cannot tell." And the king said: "Inquire whose son the stripling is." And as David returned from the slaughter of Goliath, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. And Saul said

unto him: "Whose son art thou?" And David answered: "I am the son of thy servant Jesse, the Bethlehemite."

DAVID AND JONATHAN

Now after David had prevailed over Goliath, Saul would not let him go back to his father's house, and it came to pass that the soul of Jonathan, Saul's son, was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Then David and Jonathan made a covenant, and Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

And David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely, and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

And it came to pass when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistines that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music. And the women answered one another as they played, and they said: "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." And Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him, and he said: "They have given unto David ten thousands and to me they have given but thousands, and what can he have more but the kingdom?" And Saul

watched David jealously from that day and forward.

And it came to pass on the morrow that the evil spirit came upon Saul, and David played upon his harp as at other times, but there was a javelin in Saul's hand. And Saul flung the javelin, for he said in his heart: "I will smite David even to the wall with it." But David escaped out of his presence twice.

Now David behaved himself wisely in all his ways and the Lord was with him, so that all Israel and Judah loved him. But Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him and had departed from himself, and because he saw that the young man behaved himself very wisely. And Saul said: "Let not my hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him."

And Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David, and it was told to the king, and Saul thought to ensnare David thereby. So he sent his servants, who promised David the hand of the king's daughter if so be that he would bring as a dowry the heads of one hundred Philistines. And the words pleased David, wherefore he arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men, and brought them in full tale to Saul, so that he might be the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him Michal, his daughter, to wife.

Now after this Saul, being yet the more afraid of David, spoke to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan delighted much in David, and

told him, saying: "Saul, my father, seeketh to kill thee; now, therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and stay in a secret place and hide thyself; and I will speak with my father of thee." So Jonathan spoke good of David to Saul, saying: "Let not the king sin against his servant, because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good.

"For he did put his life in his hand when he slew Goliath, and the Lord wrought a great salvation for Israel. Thou sawest it, and didst rejoice. Wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?"

And Saul listened unto the voice of Jonathan, and he swore: "As the Lord liveth, he shall not be slain."

So Jonathan called David, and showed him all these things. And he brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in old time.

Then there was war again, and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter, and they fled from him. But the evil spirit came upon Saul, as he sat in his house holding his javelin, while David played with his hand. And Saul sought to smite David, even to the wall, with the javelin, but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and escaped that night. Wherefore Saul sent messengers to David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning. So Michal, David's wife, told him, saying: "If thou save not thy life to-night, to-morrow thou shalt be slain." So she let David down through a

window; and he went, and fled, and escaped. And he came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him.

And a man told Saul that David was with Samuel, and he sent messengers to take David. But when they saw the company of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing over them as he was appointed, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers, and they prophesied also. And when it was told Saul he sent messengers a second and yet a third time, and they prophesied also. Then went he himself unto Samuel, and the Spirit of God came upon him also, and he prophesied in like manner. Wherefore do men say: "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

Then David fled from Samuel and came to Jonathan and said: "What have I done? what is my iniquity? and what is my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?" And Jonathan said: "God forbid; thou shalt not die. Behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will show it to me."

But David said: "Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes, wherefore saith he: 'Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as thy soul liveth and as the Lord liveth, there is but a step between me and death." Then answered Jonathan: "Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do it for thee." And David said to Jonathan: "Behold, to-morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field until the third day at even. If thy

father at all miss me, then say: 'David earnestly asked leave of me to run to Bethlehem his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.' If he say, 'It is well,' I shall have peace; but if he be very wroth, then be sure that evil is determined by him. Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with me; for thou hast brought me into a covenant of the Lord with thee. Nevertheless, if there be sin in me, slay me thyself, for why shouldst thou bring me to thy father?"

And Jonathan said: "Far be it from thee. For if I knew certainly that my father wished thee evil, then would I not tell thee?" And David answered: "Who shall tell me? or what if thy father answer roughly?"

And Jonathan said: "Come and let us go out." And when they had come into the field he said: "Lo, I will inquire of my father, about to-morrow or the third day; and, behold, if there be any good toward thee, but I send not to thee and tell thee, may the Lord do so and much more to me. But if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will show it to thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace; and may the Lord be with thee, as He hath been with my father. And not only while I live shalt thou show me the kindness of the Lord, so that I die not, but also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my children for ever; no, not when the Lord hath cut off the enemies of David, every one, from the face of the earth."

So Jonathan made a covenant with David, saying: "Let the Lord even require it at the hand of David's enemies."

And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him even as he loved his own soul.

Then Jonathan said to David: "To-morrow is the new moon, and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty. And when thou hast stayed three days, then thou shalt go down quickly and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was in hand, and shalt remain by the stone Ezel. And I will shoot three arrows on the side thereof, as though I shot at a mark. And behold, I will send a lad, saying: 'Go, find out the arrows.'

"If I say unto the lad, 'Behold, the arrows are on this side of thee, take them,' then come thou, for there is peace to thee, and no hurt, as the Lord liveth. But if I say thus unto the young man, 'Behold, the arrows are beyond thee,' go thy way, for the Lord hath sent thee away."

So David hid himself in the field, and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat. And the king sat upon his seat as at other times, even upon a seat by the wall; and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty. Nevertheless Saul spake not anything that day, for he thought: "Something hath happened to him; surely he will be here to-morrow." But it came to pass on the morrow, which was the second day of the month, that David's place was again empty, and Saul asked Jonathan his son: "Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse

to meat, neither yesterday nor to-day?" And Jonathan answered Saul: "David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem, saying: 'Let me go, I pray thee, for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me to be there. And now, if I have found favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren.' Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table."

Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him: "Thou son of a rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion? For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die."

But Jonathan spake boldly unto his father and said: "Wherefore shall he be slain? What hath he done?" Then Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him; whereby Jonathan knew that his father was determined to slay David.

So he arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month; for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.

And it came to pass in the morning that Jonathan went out into the field, at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him. And he said unto his lad: "Run, find out the arrows which I shoot." And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. And when the lad was come to the place where the arrow had fallen Jonathan cried after him and said:

"Is not the arrow beyond thee? Make speed, haste, stay not." And the lad gathered up the arrows and came to his master. And Jonathan gave unto him his bows and arrows, saying: "Go, carry them to the city."

And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed him three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another. And Jonathan said to David: "Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying: 'The Lord be between me and thee, and between my children and thy children for ever.'"

So David arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

Then David came to the priest of Nob and said unto him: "Is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? For I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, for the king's business required haste." And the priest said: "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the vestments. If thou wilt take that, take it, for there is no other save that here." And David said: "There is none like that; give it me."

So David arose that day and fled for fear of Saul, and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his father and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him, and

he became a captain over them, and there were with him about four hundred men.

Now when Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that were with him, he said unto his servants that stood about him: "Hear now, ye Benjamites: will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds? Why is it that all of you have plotted against me, and there is none indeed who hath shown me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you who is sorry for me, or who hath shown me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?"

Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul: "I saw the son of Jesse coming into Nob, to Ahimelech the priest." Then the king sent to call Ahimelech, and all his father's house, and the priests who were in Nob. And they came, all of them, to the king. And Saul said unto Ahimelech: "Why hast thou conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast inquired of God for him, so that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?" And Ahimelech answered: "Who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, thine own son-in-law, who goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house? Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Be it far from me. Let not the king charge anything unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father, for thy servant

knew nothing of all this, less or more." But the king said: "Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house."

And the king said unto the footmen who stood about him: "Turn and slay the priests of the Lord, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not show it me."

But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the Lord; only Doeg, the Edomite, turned and fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five. And Nob, the city of the priests, he smote with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children, and oxen and asses, and sheep.

But Abiathar, one of the sons of Ahimelech, escaped, and fled after David, and told him. Then David answered: "I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house. Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life; but with me thou shalt be in safety."

So David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not unto his hand.

And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David, and strengthened his hand with God. And he said unto him: "Fear not, for the hand of Saul shall not find thee, but thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul, my father, knoweth."

So David stayed in the wilderness, and Jonathan went to his house.

After this Saul came in pursuit of David, and while he was on one side of the mountain, David and his men were on the other side. And David made haste to get away, but Saul and his men surrounded David and his men, to take them. But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying: "Haste thee and come, for the Philistines have invaded the land." Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines.

Now it came to pass, when Saul returned from following the Philistines, that he took three thousand chosen men and went to seek David upon the rocks of the wild goats. And he went into a cave, wherein were David and his men, and slept. And David's men said: "The day is come which the Lord promised thee, saying: 'Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good to thee.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off the skirt of Saul's robe. But he would not suffer his servants to harm the king.

Then Saul rose up out of the cave and went his way. David also arose afterward and went out of the cave and cried after Saul, saying: "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth and bowed himself. And David said unto Saul: "Wherefore dost thou listen to the words of men who say: 'Behold, David seeketh thy hurt'? Look, this day

thine eyes have seen how that the Lord had delivered thee into my hand in the cave, and some bade me kill thee, but mine eye spared thee, and I said: 'I will not put forth my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' Moreover, my father, see, the skirt of thy robe is in my hand. Because I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor wickedness in my hand, and I have not sinned against thee. Yet thou huntest my life to take it. The Lord judge between me and thee, and the Lord avenge me against thee, but mine hand shall not be upon thee. After whom hath the king of Israel come out? After whom dost thou pursue? After a dead dog, after a flea? The Lord therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand."

And Saul said: "Is this thy voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. And he said to David: "Thou art more righteous than I, for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. And thou hast showed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me; forasmuch as when the Lord had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not. For if a man find his enemy will he let him go well away? Therefore the Lord reward thee good for what thou hast done unto me this day. And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand. Swear now therefore unto

me by the Lord, that thou wilt not cut off my sons after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house."

And David sware unto Saul, and Saul went home. But David and his men went up into the hold.

Now about this time Samuel died, and all Israel were gathered together, and mourned him, and buried him in his house at Ramah.

And one came to Saul, saying: "Doth not David hide himself in the hill which is before Jeshimon?" Then Saul arose and went down to the wilderness, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David. But David stayed in the wilderness and saw that Saul came after him.

And David beheld where Saul lay with Abner, the captain of his host, in the trench, and the people pitched round about him. So David came by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear was stuck in the ground at his bolster. Then one said to David: "God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day; now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time."

But David answered him, saying: "Destroy him not, for who can stretch forth his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless? As the Lord liveth, the Lord shall smite him. Either his day shall come to die, or he shall go down into battle, and perish. The Lord forbid that I should stretch forth my hand against the

Lord's anointed." So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster, and they got them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, nor awaked, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them.

Then David went over to the other side and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great space being between them. And David cried to the people, and to Abner, the captain of the host: "Answerest thou not, Abner?" And Abner said: "Who art thou who criest to the king?" And David said to Abner: "Art not thou a valiant man? and who is like to thee in Israel? Wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? For there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord. This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the Lord liveth, thou art worthy to die, because thou hast not kept thy master, the Lord's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water which was at his bolster."

And Saul knew David's voice, and said: "Is this thy voice, my son David?" And David said: "It is my voice, my lord, O King. Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after thy servant? For what have I done? or what evil is in my hand? Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant." Then said Saul: "I have sinned: return, my son David, for I will no more do thee harm, because my life was precious in thine eyes this day. Behold, I have played the fool, and erred exceedingly." And David answered: "Behold the king's spear, and let

one of the young men come over and fetch it." Then said Saul: "Blessed be thou, my son David; thou shalt do great things, and also shalt still prevail."

So David went on his way, and Saul returned home. And he sought no more again for David.

And it came to pass that the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel. Now Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land. But when he saw the hosts of the Philistines gathered together, he was afraid, and his heart trembled. And when he inquired of the Lord, and the Lord answered him not, neither by dream nor by prophets, he said unto his servants: "Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants answered: "Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor."

And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and went out, and two men with him, and he came to the woman by night. Then said the woman: "Whom shall I bring up unto thee?" And the king said: "Bring me up Samuel." And when the woman saw Samuel she cried with a loud voice; and she spake unto Saul, saying: "Why hast thou deceived me, for thou art Saul?" And the king said unto her: "Be not afraid, for what sawest thou?" And the woman answered: "I saw gods ascending out of the earth." And he said unto her: "What form is he of?" And she said: "An old man cometh up, and he is covered with a mantle." And Saul saw that

it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.

And Samuel said unto Saul: "Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up?" And Saul answered: "I am sore distressed, for the Philistines make war against me, and God hath departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore have I called thee up, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do." Then said Samuel: "Wherefore dost thou ask of me, seeing that the Lord hath departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? And the Lord hath done to thee, even as He spake by me, for He hath torn the kingdom out of thine hand and given it to David. Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the Lord, therefore hath the Lord done this thing to thee this day. Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to-morrow thou and thy sons shall be with me: the Lord also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."

Then Saul fell straightway on the earth, and was sore afraid because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night. But the woman had a fatted calf in the house; and she hastened and killed it; and took flour and kneaded it, and did bake bread thereof. And she brought it before Saul, and before his servants, and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

Now the Philistines fought against Israel;

and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines and fell down slain. And the Philistines followed close upon Saul and upon his sons, and slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Melchi-shua, Saul's sons. And the battle went against Saul, and the archers hit him, and he was wounded. And Saul said unto his armour-bearer: "Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith, lest these abominable ones come and thrust me through." But his armour-bearer would not, for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell upon it. And when his armour-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him. So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armour-bearer, and all his men, that same day.

And when one told David that Saul and Jonathan, his son, were dead, David mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, saying: "Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided. The beauty of Israel is slain upon her high places. How are the mighty fallen! I am distressed for thee, my brother, Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been to me; thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women."

THE STORY OF ABSALOM

Now after the death of Saul the men of Judah came to David at Hebron, and there they anointed him king over Judah. Then there was long war between the house of Saul and David, but David waxed stronger and stronger,

and at length the elders of Israel came to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying: "Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel; and the Lord said to thee: 'Thou shalt feed My people Israel, and thou shalt be captain over Israel.'" And King David made a league with them in Hebron before the Lord; and they anointed him king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign and he reigned forty years.

Now of the sons of David one he called Solomon, and the Lord loved him. And another, Absalom, was much praised for his beauty; from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. And when at the end of every year he cut his hair he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels. But Absalom rebelled against his father, and fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years. And the soul of David longed to go forth unto Absalom. When therefore men saw that the king's heart was toward Absalom, they entreated David, so that he said: "Go, therefore, bring the young man Absalom again. But let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face."

And Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face. Then Absalom sent for Joab, saying: "Come hither that I may send thee to the king to say: 'Wherefore am I come from Geshur? It had been good for me to have been there still. Now therefore let me see the king's face; and

if there be any iniquity in me, let him kill me.'" So Absalom was brought to the king, and the king kissed him.

And after this Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. And he rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate; and it was so, that when any man who had a quarrel came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said: "Of what city art thou?" And he said: "Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel." And Absalom said unto him: "See, thy matters are good and right, but there is no man sent from the king to hear thee. Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which had any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!" And it was so, that when any man came nigh unto him to greet him, Absalom put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. And in this manner did he to all Israel that came to the king for judgment; so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

And it came to pass after forty years that Absalom sent unto the king, saying: "I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I vowed while I abode at Geshur, saying: 'If the Lord shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then will I serve the Lord.'" And the king said unto him: "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron. But he sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying: "As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say: 'Absalom reigneth in Hebron.'"

And there came a messenger to David saying: "The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom." And David said unto all that were with him at Jerusalem: "Arise and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make haste to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword."

And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off. And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people, together with the king, passed over the brook Kidron, toward the wilderness. And David went up by the ascent of Mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot; and all the people who were with him covered every man his head, and as they went up they wept. And Absalom rode in triumph into Jerusalem.

But at length David prepared him to smite his rebellious son, and he arose, and all the people that were with him, and they passed over Jordan. By the morning light there lacked not one who had not gone over Jordan.

And David numbered the men who were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them. And the king said: "I will surely go forth with you myself also." But they would not suffer him to do this, wherefore the king said unto them: "What seemeth you best I will do. But deal gently, for my sake, with the young man Absalom."

So the people went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim, where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David; and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand men.

Now Absalom fled from before the servants of David. And the mule upon which he rode went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth, and the mule that was under him went on. Then Joab, the captain over a third part of the men of David, took three darts in his hand and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak. And the ten young men that carried Joab's armour came round and smote Absalom, and slew him; and they took Absalom and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him.

And David sat between the two gates of the city, and behold, messengers came running unto him. And David said: "Is Absalom safe?" But the messenger said: "The enemies of my lord the king be as that young man is."

And the king was much moved, and went aside and wept. And as he went, thus he said: "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

Now King David was old and stricken in years and the days drew near that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying: "I go the way of all the earth; be thou strong, therefore, and show thyself a man. Keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, and His commandments, and His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself."

So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

Now when Solomon was in Gibeon, for he had gone to offer sacrifices there, the Lord appeared unto him in a dream by night. And God said: "Ask what I shall give thee." And Solomon said: "Thou hast showed unto Thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before Thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with Thee; and Thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that Thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O Lord my God, Thou hast made Thy servant king instead of David my father, and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or to come in. And Thy servant is in the midst of Thy people, which Thou hast chosen, a great people that cannot be numbered nor counted

for multitude. Give therefore Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people, that I may choose between good and evil; for who is able to judge this Thy so great people?"

And it pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And He said unto him: "Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life, neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies, but hast asked for thyself understanding, behold, I have done according to thy words; lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart, so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches and honour, so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. And if thou wilt walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as thy father David did walk, then will I lengthen thy days."

And Solomon awoke, and behold it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, and sacrificed, and made a feast to all his servants. And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea-shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men, and his fame was in all nations round about. And he spake three thousand proverbs, and his songs were a thou-

sand and five. And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall; he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes. And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

Now there came two women unto the king, and stood before him. And the one woman said: "This woman and I were together; there was none other with us in the house. And this woman's child died in the night. And she arose at midnight and took my son from beside me, while I slept, and laid him in her arms, and laid her dead child in my arms. And when I arose in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead; but when I had looked upon him in the morning, behold, it was not my son."

And the other woman said: "Nay, but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son." Thus they spake before the king.

Then said Solomon: "Bring me a sword." And they brought a sword before the king. And he said: "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other."

Then she who was the child's mother spake unto the king, and she said: "O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it." But the other said: "Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it."

Then the king answered: "Give this woman the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof."

And all Israel heard of the judgment, and they feared the king; for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

When Hiram, king of Tyre, heard that they had anointed Solomon king in the room of his father, he sent his servants unto him, for Hiram was ever a lover of David. And Solomon sent unto Hiram, saying: "Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the Lord his God because of the wars which were about him on every side, until the Lord put his enemies under the soles of his feet. But now the Lord my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither enemy nor disturbance. And behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord spake unto David, saying: 'Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto My name.' Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants; and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint: for thou knowest that there is not among us any that have skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians."

And Hiram rejoiced greatly, and said: "Blessed be the Lord this day, Who hath given unto David a wise son over this great people." And Hiram made answer to Solomon: "I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar,

and concerning timber of fir. My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea; I will send them by sea in floats unto the place which thou shalt appoint me."

So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees, according to all his desire. And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food for his household, and twenty measures of pure oil. These gave Solomon to Hiram year by year.

And Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel of thirty thousand men. And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand men a month; a month they were in Lebanon, and two months at home. And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand who carried burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains; besides the chief of Solomon's officers who were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, who ruled over the people who wrought in the work. And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house. And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them; so they prepared timber and stone to build the house.

And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign, in the second month, that he began to build the house for the Lord. The length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits. And for the house he

made windows of narrow lights. And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about. And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought there, so that there was neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was in building. The door for the middle chamber was on the right side of the house, and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third. So he built the house and finished it, and covered the house with boards and beams of cedar. And he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar, both the floor of the house and the ceiling; and he covered them on the inside with wood, and covered the floor of the house with planks of fir. And the cedar of the house within was carved with fruits and flowers; all was cedar, there was no stone seen. The oracle, even the most holy place, he overlaid with pure gold, and so covered the altar, which was of cedar. And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house. And within the oracle he made two cherubim of olive tree, overlaid with gold, each ten cubits high. He set the cherubim in the inner house; and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubim so that the wing of one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house. And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open

flowers, within and without. And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree, and he carved upon them and spread gold upon the carvings. So also he made for the door of the temple posts of olive tree: the two leaves of the one door were folding and the two leaves of the other door were folding. And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone and a row of cedar beams.

And in the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the Lord laid, in the second month. And in the eleventh year, in the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

And Solomon made all the vessels that belonged unto the house of the Lord: the altar of gold and the table of gold; and the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle; with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs, of gold; and the bowls, and the snuffers, and the basins, and the spoons, and the ash-pans of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, and the outer doors of the temple.

So was ended all the work which King Solomon made for the house of the Lord. And he brought in all the things which David his father had dedicated; even the silver and the gold, and the vessels, did he put among the treasures of the house of the Lord.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

The Queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, and she came to prove him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones; and when she was come to Solomon she spoke with him of all that was in her heart. And Solomon answered all her questions; there was not anything hid from the king, which he told her not. And when the Queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, and the meat of his table, and all the magnificence of his surroundings, there was no more spirit in her. And she said to the king: "It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thine acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it; and behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom. Blessed be the Lord thy God, Who delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel."

And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones. There came no more such abundance of spices as these which the Queen of Sheba gave to Solomon.

THE PROPHETS

ELIJAH

AFTER Solomon other kings reigned over Israel, of whom many did wickedly in the sight of the Lord. Then Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, prophesied against Israel, saying: "As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before Whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."

Then the word of the Lord came unto him, saying: "Turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. Thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee." So Elijah went and did according to the word of the Lord; and the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

But it came to pass after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain. And again the word of the Lord came unto him: "Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to feed thee." So he went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks;

and he called to her and said: "Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." Then as she was going to fetch it, he called again: "Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand." And the woman said: "As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and cook it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

And Elijah said: "Fear not, go and do as thou hast said, but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it me; and afterward make for thee and thy son. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel: 'The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.'" And the woman went and did according to the saying of Elijah; and she, and he, and her house did eat many days.

And it came to pass after these things that the widow's son fell sick, and his sickness was so sore that there was no breath left in him. And the woman said unto Elijah: "What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?" And he said unto her: "Give me thy son." And he took him out of her arms, and carried him up into a loft, where he slept, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried unto the Lord, and said: "O Lord my God, hast Thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I dwell, by slaying her son?" And he stretched himself upon the child three

times, and cried unto the Lord, and said: "O Lord my God, I pray Thee, let this child's soul come into him again." And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah, and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

Then Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother; and Elijah said: "See, thy son liveth." And the woman said unto Elijah: "Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth."

And in the third year the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying: "Go, show thyself unto King Ahab; I will send rain upon the earth."

And Elijah spake unto the king: "Now send and gather to me all Israel unto Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred." So the king sent unto all the children of Israel and gathered the prophets together unto Mount Carmel. And Elijah said unto the people: "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him." And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah unto them: "I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under. And call ye on

the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord, and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God." And all the people answered: "It is well." Then Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal: "Choose ye one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first, for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under."

And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon: "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. And it came to pass at noon that Elijah mocked them, and said: "Cry aloud: for he is a god: either he is talking or he is pursuing, or he is on a journey, or it may be he sleepeth, and must be awaked." And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. But though, when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the evening sacrifice, there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

Then Elijah gathered the people near unto him; and he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down, and took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob; and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord; and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said: "Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and

on the wood." And he said: "Do it the second time." And they did it the second time. And he said: "Do it the third time." And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar, and Elijah filled the trench also with water.

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said: "Lord God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that Thou art the Lord God, and that Thou hast turned their heart back again."

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces, and they said: "The Lord, He is the God. The Lord, He is the God." And Elijah said: "Take the prophets of Baal, let not one of them escape." And they took them, and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

Then Elijah went up to the mountain-top, and bade his servant look toward the sea. And the man could see nothing. And he bade him look again, until at the seventh time he said: "Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand."

And Elijah sent him unto the king, saying: "Get thee down, that the rain stay thee not." And behold, there was a great rain.

Now Jezebel, the king's wife, was wroth that

Elijah had slain the prophets of Baal, and she sent a messenger to the prophet threatening to take his life. And Elijah fled into the wilderness, a day's journey, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers." And as he lay and slept under the juniper tree, behold, then, an angel touched him and said unto him: "Arise and eat." And he looked, and behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid himself down again. And the angel of the Lord came a second time and touched him and said: "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for thee." And he arose and ate, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb, the mount of God. And he came thither into a cave, and lodged there, and behold, the word of the Lord came to him and He said: "What doest thou here, Elijah?" And he said: "I have been very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts, for the children of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword. And I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life to take it away." And He said: "Go forth and stand upon the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind, an earth-

quake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after that a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire a still small voice.

And it was so when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And behold, there came a voice unto him, and said: "Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when thou comest anoint Hazael to be king over Syria; and Jehu, the son of Nimshi, shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel; and Elisha, the son of Shaphat, shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. And it shall come to pass that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay; and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. Yet I have left Me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him."

So Elijah departed thence, and found Elisha, the son of Shaphat, who was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth; and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said: "Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee." And Elijah said: "Go back again, for what have I done to thee?" And Elisha returned, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and waited upon him.

And it came to pass when the Lord would

take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. And Elijah said unto Elisha: "Stay here, I pray thee, for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel." And Elisha said unto him: "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him: "Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to-day?" And he said: "Yea, I know it; hold thy peace." And Elijah said unto him: "Elisha, stay here, I pray thee, for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho." And he said: "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So they came to Jericho. And the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said: "Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to-day?" And he answered: "Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace." And Elijah said unto him: "Stay, I pray thee, here, for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan." And he said: "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." And they two went on. And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood afar off to see: and they two stood by Jordan.

And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. And when they were gone over, Elijah said unto Elisha: "Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away

from thee." And Elisha said: "I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me." And Elijah said: "Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so." And it came to pass, as they went on, and talked, that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried: "My father, my father! the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof!" And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and tore them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and smote the waters of Jordan with the mantle, and said: "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" And the waters parted and Elisha went over.

ELISHA

Now the sons of the prophets who had stood afar off when Elijah was taken up into heaven said one to another: "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him. And they said: "Behold, now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master, lest maybe the Spirit of the Lord hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley." And Elisha said: "Ye shall not send." And when they urged him till he was wearied

he said: "Send." They sent therefore, and the men sought three days for Elijah, but found him not. And Elisha said unto them: "Did I not say unto you, 'Go not'?"

After this Elisha returned to Samaria, and there came to him a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets, saying: "Thou knowest that thy servant my husband did fear the Lord; he is dead, and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be his bondmen." And Elisha said: "What shall I do for thee? Tell me, what hast thou in the house?" And she said: "Thy handmaid hath not anything in the house save a pot of oil." And he said: "Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels: borrow not a few. And when thou art come in thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full."

So she went out, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. And it came to pass when the vessels were full that she said unto her son: "Bring me yet a vessel." And he said unto her: "There is not a vessel more." And the oil stayed. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said: "Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live, thou and thy children, on the rest."

Now it happened one day that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman, and she

persuaded him to eat bread. And so it was that, as often as he passed that way, he turned in to eat bread. And she said to her husband: "Behold now, I see that this is a holy man of God, who passeth by us continually. Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick; and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither." And it happened one day that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there. And he said to his servant: "Call this Shunammite." And when he had called her, she stood before him. And he said unto her: "Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care. What is to be done for thee? Wouldst thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host?" And she answered: "I dwell among mine own people." And he said: "What then is to be done for thee?" And she answered: "Verily, thy servant hath no child." And he said: "About this season, a year after this day, thou shall embrace a son." And it was so, even as Elisha had said.

And when the child was grown up, it happened one day that he went out to his father's field to the reapers. And he said unto his father: "My head, my head!" And his father said to a lad: "Carry the boy to his mother." And when he had been brought to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out. And she called unto her husband

and said: "Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again." And he said: "Wherefore wilt thou go to him to-day?" It is neither new moon nor Sabbath." And she said: "It shall be well." Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant: "Drive and go forward. Slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee." So she went, and came unto the man of God to Mount Carmel. And it came to pass when the man of God saw her afar off he said to his servant: "Behold, yonder is that Shunammite. Run now to meet her and say unto her: 'Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?'" And she answered: "It is well." And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet. And his servant came near to thrust her away. But the man of God said: "Let her alone, for her soul is vexed within her, and the Lord hath hid it from me, and hath not told me." Then she said: "Did I desire a son of my lord? Did I not say: 'Do not deceive me'?" Then he said to his servant: "Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thy hand, and go thy way. If thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again. And lay my staff upon the face of the child."

And the mother of the child said: "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee."

And he arose and followed her. And Elisha's servant passed on before them, and laid the

staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Wherefore he went back to meet his master, and told him, saying: "The child is not awaked."

And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead and laid upon his bed. He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them two, and prayed unto the Lord. And he went up and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and he stretched himself upon the child, and the flesh of the child waxed warm. Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up and stretched himself upon him; and the child sneezed seven times, and opened his eyes. And Elisha bade his servant call the boy's mother. And when she was come in Elisha said: "Take up thy son." Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

And Elisha came again to Gilgal, and there was famine in the land. And there came a man and brought him bread of the first-fruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk thereof. And Elisha said: "Give unto the people, that they may eat." But his servant said: "What! should I set this before an hundred men?" He said again: "Give the people, that they may eat. For thus saith the Lord: 'They shall eat, and shall leave thereof.'" So he set it before them, and they did eat, and left thereof, according to the word of the Lord.

Now Naaman, captain of the host of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable. He was also a mighty man of valour, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid, and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress: "Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would cure him of his leprosy." And one went in and told his lord, saying: "Thus and thus said the little maid that is of the land of Israel." And the king of Syria said: "Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel." And Naaman departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. And it came to pass when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said: "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? Wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel with me."

And it was so, when Elisha, the man of God, had heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying: "Wherefore hast thou torn thy clothes? Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying: "Go, and wash in the Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be

clean." But Naaman was wroth, and went away, saying: "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and cure the leper.' Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean?" So he turned, and went away in anger. But his servants came near and spake unto him, saying: "My father, if the prophet had bade thee do some great thing, wouldst thou not have done it? How much rather, then, when he saith to thee: 'Wash, and be clean'!" Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and stood before him, and he said: "Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel: now, therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing from thy servant." But Elisha said: "As the Lord liveth, before Whom I stand, I will receive none." And though Naaman urged him, he refused.

Now after Naaman had departed from the man of God, Gehazi, Elisha's servant, ran after him, saying that his master had sent him for a gift. But when he returned to his master, Elisha reproached him, and said: "The leprosy of Naaman shall cleave unto thee for thine offence." And he went out of his master's presence a leper as white as snow.

And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha: "Behold, now, the place where we dwell with thee is too small for us. Let us go, we pray thee, to Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there where we may dwell." And he answered: "Go ye." And one said: "Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants." So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan they cut down wood. But as one was felling a beam the axe-head fell into the water, and he cried and said: "Alas, master! for it was borrowed." And the man of God said: "Where fell it?" And he showed him the place. And Elisha cut down a stick, and cast it in there, and the iron did swim. Therefore said he: "Take it up to thee." And he put out his hand and took it.

Now the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying: "In such and such a place shall be my camp." And the man of God sent a warning unto the king of Israel: "Beware that thou pass not such a place: for thither the Syrians are come down." And the king availed him of the warning of the man of God not once nor twice, but many times. Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants and said unto them: "Will ye not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?" And one of his servants said: "None, my lord, O King: but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words which thou speakest in thy

bedchamber." And he said: "Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him." And it was told him, saying: "Behold, he is in Dothan." Therefore sent he thither horses and chariots, and a great host, and they came by night, and surrounded the city. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, a great host was about the city. And his servant said unto him: "Alas, my master, how shall we do?" And he answered: "Fear not, for they that are with us are more than they that be with them." And Elisha prayed, and said: "Lord, I pray Thee, open his eyes, that he may see." And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. And when the Syrians came down to him Elisha prayed unto the Lord, and said: "Smite these people, I pray Thee, with blindness." And He smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. And Elisha said unto them: "This is not the way, neither is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek." But he led them to Samaria. And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said: "Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw, and behold, they were in Samaria. And the king of Israel said unto Elisha: "My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them?" And he answered: "Thou shalt not smite them: wouldst thou smite those whom thou hadst taken captive with thy sword

and with thy bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master." And he prepared great provision for them, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

Now Elisha was fallen sick of the sickness whereof he died, and the king of Israel came down unto him and wept over his face and said: "My father! the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof!" And Elisha said: "Take bow and arrows." And he took unto him bow and arrows. And he said to the king of Israel: "Put thine hand upon the bow." And he put his hand upon the bow. And Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands. And he said: "Open the window eastward." And he opened it. Then Elisha said: "Shoot!" And he shot. And he said: "The arrow of the Lord's deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria. For thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou hast consumed them." And he said: "Take the arrows." And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel: "Smite upon the ground." And he smote thrice, and stayed. And the man of God was angry with him, and said: "Thou shouldst have smitten five or six times, then thou wouldst have smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it, whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice."

And Elisha died, and was buried. And it

came to pass that a man was being carried to his burial when those who carried him spied a band of men; wherefore in haste they cast the body into the tomb of Elisha. And when he was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, lo, the man revived and stood up on his feet.

ISAIAH

In the days when Uzziah was king in Judah, I, Isaiah, the son of Amoz, saw in a vision the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory." And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him who cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

Then said I: "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts."

Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar. And he laid it upon my mouth, and said: "Lo, this hath touched thy lips, and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sins are made clean."

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then said I: "Here am I; send me."

Now after Uzziah had died and his grandson Ahaz sat upon the throne of Judah, it came to pass that Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the king of Israel went up against Jerusalem, but could not prevail against it. And the king of Judah was moved, and the heart of his people was moved, as the trees of the wood are moved with the winds. Then said the Lord unto Isaiah: "Go now to meet the king at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field. And say unto him: 'Take heed and be quiet; fear not, neither be faint-hearted for the two tails of these smoking fire-brands, for the fierce anger of Rezin and of Pekah. They have taken evil counsel against thee, but it shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass.'"

Now in the days of Hezekiah, in the fourteenth year of his reign, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, came up against the defended cities of Judah and took them. And he sent his captain Rabshakeh to Jerusalem unto King Hezekiah with a great army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field. And he sent word unto Hezekiah, saying: "Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, what confidence is this wherein thou trustest? Perchance thou sayest: 'I have counsel and strength for war.' Lo, thou trustest in the staff of this broken reed, on Egypt; whereon if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to all who trust on him. But if ye say to me, 'We trust in the Lord our God,' is that not He Whose altars

Hezekiah hath taken away? Now therefore give pledges, I pray thee, to my master, the king of Assyria, and I will give thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them."

But the captains of Judah answered, saying: "Speak, we pray thee, unto thy servants in the Syrian language, for we understand it; but speak not to us in the Jews' language, in the ears of the people that are on the wall."

But Rabshakeh said: "Hath my master sent me to thy master and to thee to speak these words? Hath he not sent me to the men that sit upon the wall?" Then he stood, and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language and said: "Hear ye the words of the great king, the king of Assyria. Thus saith the king: 'Let not Hezekiah deceive you, for he shall not be able to deliver you. Make an agreement with me by presents, and come out to me: and then eat ye every man of his vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one of the waters of his own cistern; until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. Beware lest Hezekiah deceive you, saying: "The Lord will deliver us." Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and of Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? Who are they among all the gods of these lands that have delivered their country out of my hand, that

the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?'" But the people held their peace and answered him not a word, according to the king's commandment.

And it came to pass when Hezekiah heard the words of Rabshakeh, that he tore his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord. And he sent men of his household and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, unto Isaiah. And they said unto him: "Thus saith Hezekiah: 'This is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of blasphemy. It may be that the Lord thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria hath sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which the Lord thy God hath heard; wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left.'" And Isaiah said: "Thus shall ye say unto your master: 'Thus saith the Lord, "Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith the king of Assyria hath blasphemed Me. Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land. He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city. For I will defend this city, to save it, for Mine own sake, and for My servant David's sake."'"

Then the angel of the Lord went forth and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred

and four score and five thousand; and when the men of Judah arose early in the morning, behold, the Assyrians were all dead corpses.

King Hezekiah lay sick unto death, and Isaiah came to him and said: "Thus saith the Lord: 'Set thine house in order, for thou shalt die, and not live.'"

Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed unto the Lord, and said: "Remember now, O Lord, I beseech Thee, how I have walked before Thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in Thy sight." And Hezekiah wept sore.

Then came the word of the Lord to Isaiah, saying: "Go and say to Hezekiah, 'Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father: "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears; behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years. And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city. And this shall be a sign unto thee: behold, I will set back the shadow on the sun-dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward."'" And so it was that the sun returned on the dial ten degrees.

Then the king rejoiced and said: "Behold, Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption. For the grave cannot praise Thee, Death cannot celebrate Thee. The living, he shall praise Thee, as I do this day."

THE CAPTIVITY

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

IN the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar, into the treasure-house of his god.

Now of the captives the king chose certain of the children of Israel, with whom was Daniel, young men in whom was no blemish; well-favoured, and skilful in all wisdom; cunning in knowledge, and understanding science; and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and to be taught the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

Now in the second year of his reign King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed a dream, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. So he commanded the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to show him the meaning of his dream. They came and stood before him, and said: "O King, live for ever. Tell thy servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." But the king answered: "The thing is gone from me. If ye will not make known unto me

the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be burnt to the ground." The Chaldeans said: "There is not a man upon the earth that can show the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that hath asked such things from any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. It is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other who can show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

Then the king waxed furious and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. And with them they sought Daniel and his fellows, to be slain. But Daniel went unto the king, and Nebuchadnezzar gave him time to ponder in the matter. Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to his companions, so that they might desire mercy of the God of heaven concerning this secret, and not perish with the rest.

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision; and he went unto Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, whom the king had commanded to destroy the wise men of Babylon, and said thus to him: "Bring me in before the king, and I will show him the interpretation." So Arioch brought him before the king in haste; and Nebuchadnezzar said unto Daniel: "Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?" And Daniel said: "The wise men, the astrologers, the soothsayers, cannot show unto the king the secret which the king hath

demanded. But there is a God in heaven Who revealeth secrets, and maketh known to thee, O King, what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these:

"Thou, O King, sawest, and behold, a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee, and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his body and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. This thou sawest, till a stone was cut without hands, which smote the image upon its feet, which were of iron and clay, and broke them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the threshing-floors, and the wind carried them away, so that no place was found for them; and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the earth.

"This is the dream, and I will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O King, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of heaven hath He given into thy hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

"And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron:

forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things; and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potter's clay and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided.

"But in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed. It shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Thus hath the great God made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter; and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

Then Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and worshipped Daniel, saying: "Of a truth thy God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret." And the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. And Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO

Now among the Jews whom Nebuchadnezzar exalted were three men whom, at the request of Daniel, he set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

And the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth

thereof six cubits, and he set it up in the plain of Dura. And he sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to the dedication of the image which he had set up. Then when they all stood before the image an herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image which Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up. And whosoever falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

Therefore, at that time, when all the people heard the sound of music, they fell down and worshipped the golden image.

But certain Chaldeans came near and said to the king: "O King, live for ever. Thou, O King, hast made a decree that every man who shall hear the sound of the music shall fall down and worship the golden image: and whosoever falleth not down and worshippeth, that he shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O King, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded that these Jews be brought before

him. And he spake and said to them: "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do ye not serve my gods, nor worship the image which I have set up? Now if ye be ready, so that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made, well; but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into a burning fiery furnace: and who is that god who shall deliver you out of my hands?"

But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king: "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O King. But if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and his look was changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace seven times more than it was used to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind the Jews, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the furnace. Now because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew

the men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; and these three men fell down bound into the midst of the furnace.

Then was Nebuchadnezzar the king astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake and said to his counsellors: "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king: "True, O King." And he answered and said: "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spake and said: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the Most High God, come forth, and come hither." Then they came forth out of the midst of the fire, and the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed; neither were their coats changed, nor had the smell of fire passed on them.

Then Nebuchadnezzar spake and said: "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Who hath sent His angel, and hath delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree that every people, nation, and language who speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses burnt

to the ground; because there is none other god who can deliver after this sort."

And the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

THE PUNISHMENT OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR

"NEBUCHADNEZZAR the King, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth, peace be multiplied unto you. I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace. I saw a dream which made me afraid; and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. Therefore I made a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream. But they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof. But at the last Daniel came in before me, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods, and before him I told the dream, saying: 'O Daniel, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof. Thus were the visions of my head in my bed: I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. The tree grew and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth. The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of

the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the air dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

"'I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and behold, a watcher and a holy man came down from heaven. He cried aloud, and said thus: "Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches. Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him." This dream I King Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Daniel, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee.'"

Then Daniel was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. Then said he: "The tree that thou sawest, which grew and was strong: it is thou, O King, that art grown and become strong, for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth. This is the decree of God, which is come upon my lord the king: They shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and

they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will. And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots, thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. Wherefore, O King, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; so that this may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity."

Twelve months passed and King Nebuchadnezzar forgot Daniel's warning. One day he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon, and he looked proudly round him and said: "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built for the house of the kingdom, by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?"

While the word was yet in the king's mouth there fell a voice from heaven, saying: "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken: thy kingdom is departed from thee."

The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar, and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hair was grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

"And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honoured Him Who liveth for ever, Whose

dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him: 'What doest Thou?' At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me."

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

In due time Nebuchadnezzar died, and Belshazzar his son reigned in his stead. But the kingdom was taken from Belshazzar by Darius the Median.

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes; and over these three presidents, of whom Daniel was the first; so that the princes might give account unto them, and the king should have no damage. Then Daniel was preferred above the other presidents and the princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

But the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could not, because he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men: "We

shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God." Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him: "King Darius, live for ever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors and princes, the counsellors and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree that whoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, save of thee, O King, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O King, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not." And the king signed the writing and the decree.

Now when Daniel knew that the decree was signed, he went into his house, and, his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying before his God, and they hastened to the king and spake thus unto him: "Hast thou not signed a decree that every man who shall ask a petition of any god or man within thirty days, save of thee, O King, shall be cast into the den of lions?" Darius answered: "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not." Then answered they: "O King, that Daniel, who is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, nor the decree which thou hast

signed, but maketh his petition three times a day." Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him. But these men assembled unto the king, and said: "Know, O King, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, that no decree nor statute which the king hath established may be changed."

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. And the king said unto Daniel: "Thy God Whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee." And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signets of his lords, so that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. Then Darius went to his palace, and passed the night fasting; nor were instruments of music brought before him; and his sleep went from him.

Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den he cried with a lamentable voice: "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, Whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?" Then said Daniel unto the king: "O King, live for ever. My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me; forasmuch as before Him innocence was found in me; and also before thee, O King, have I done no hurt."

Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel

up out of the den. And no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of the lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake their bones in pieces before they came to the bottom of the den.

JONAH AND THE WHALE

In the days when the children of Israel had returned from captivity in Babylon, the word of the Lord came unto Jonah, saying: "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before Me." But Jonah rose up to flee from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish, so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go unto Tarshish, from the presence of the Lord.

But God sent out a great wind, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken. Then the sailors were afraid and called every man unto his god, and cast forth everything that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him: "What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, so that we perish not." And they said every one to

his fellow: "Come and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. Then they said unto him: "Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us. What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? What is thy country? and of what people art thou?" And he said unto them: "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, Who hath made the sea and the dry land." Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him: "Why hast thou done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then they said unto him: "What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us?" And he said unto them: "Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea. So shall the sea be calm unto you, for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you." Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship to the land; but they could not, for the sea raged, and was tempestuous against them. Wherefore they cried unto the Lord and said: "We beseech Thee, O Lord, we beseech Thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood, for Thou, O Lord, hast done as it pleased Thee." So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea, and the sea ceased from her raging. Then the men feared God exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows.

Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the

body of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the body of the fish, and said: "I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and He heard me: out of the depths of hell cried I, and Thou heardest my voice. For Thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the sea; and the floods compassed me about; all Thy billows and Thy waves passed over me. Then I said: 'I am cast out of Thy sight, yet I will look again toward Thy holy temple.' The waters compassed me about, even to the soul; the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottom of the mountains, the earth with her bars was about me for ever. Yet hast Thou brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God."

And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it cast out Jonah upon the dry land.

ESTHER

In the third year of the reign of Ahasuerus, who ruled over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces, from India even unto Ethiopia, the king made a feast in Shushan unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him. When he had showed them the riches of his glorious kingdom, and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days, the king made a feast unto all those who were present in Shushan, both unto great and small, seven

days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace. There were white, green, and blue hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble. The beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red and blue and white and black marble. And Vashti the queen made a feast for the women.

Now on the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry, he commanded his seven chamberlains, who served in his house, to bring Vashti the queen with the crown royal, to show the people and the princes her beauty, for she was fair to look on. But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment; therefore was the king very wroth.

Then the king said to the wise men, his counsellors: "What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to the law, because she hath not obeyed the king?" And one answered before the king and the princes: "Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes and to all the people. For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands.

"If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Medes and Persians, so that it be not altered, that Vashti come no more before King Ahasuerus, and let the king give her royal estate unto another who is better than she. And when the king's decree shall be published throughout all his empire, all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small."

And the counsel pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of his counsellor.

But it came to pass that when the king's wrath was softened, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her. Then said the king's servants, who waited on him: "Let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom that they may gather together all the fair young maidens into Shushan the palace, under the care of the king's chamberlain. And let the maiden who pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti." And the thing pleased Ahasuerus, and he did so.

Now in Shushan there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai, who had been carried away captive from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. Mordecai had with him his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother; wherefore he had taken her for his own daughter. The maid, Esther, was fair and beautiful, and so it came to pass, when the king's commandment was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together in Shushan, that Esther was brought also into the king's house, unto the king's chamberlain. And the maiden pleased him and she obtained kindness of him. But Esther had not made known her people or her kindred, for Mordecai had charged her that she should not. And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what became of her.

Now when the time was come Esther was

taken into the royal house. And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the maidens, so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti. Moreover Ahasuerus made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he gave kingly gifts. Now it came to pass that while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains who kept the door were wroth and sought to lay hands on the king. And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen, and she told the king in the name of Mordecai. And the king found that it was so, wherefore the men were both hanged on a tree, and it was written in the book of the Chronicles.

After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. And all the king's servants who were in the king's gate bowed before Haman, for so had the king commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence. Now it came to pass, after the king's servants had spoken daily unto Mordecai and had learned that he was a Jew, that they told Haman. And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, he sought to destroy all the Jews throughout the whole kingdom because of his wrath against Mordecai.

And Haman said to the king: "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among all the provinces of thy kingdom; and

their laws are different from all people, neither keep they the king's laws; therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those who have charge of the business, to bring it unto the king's treasuries." And the king took his ring from off his hand and gave it to Haman, saying: "The silver is given to thee, and the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee." Then the posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city was perplexed.

When Mordecai perceived all that was done he tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and cried with a loud and bitter cry. And in every province, wherever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing, and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told her. Then she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, but he received it not. Then she sent to inquire of Mordecai the reason of his grief. And he told her of all that Haman had done, charging her that she should go in unto the king and supplicate him, and make request before him for her people. But she answered: "All the king's servants, and the people of all the provinces, do know that there is a law that

if any man or woman shall come unto the king into the inner court, unless he be called, he shall be put to death (except the king shall hold out the golden sceptre as a token that he may live). But I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days."

Then said Mordecai: "Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall help and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed. Who knoweth whether thou art not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Then said Esther: "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day. I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law. And if I perish I perish."

So Mordecai went his way, and did all that Esther had commanded him.

Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court, and the king sat upon his golden throne. And it was so, that when the king saw Esther, the queen, she obtained favour in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. Then said the king unto her: "What wilt thou, Queen Esther, and what is

thy request? It shall be given thee even to the half of the kingdom." And Esther answered: "If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him." And as the king sat at the banquet of wine he said unto Esther: "What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee. What is thy request? Even to the half of the kingdom, it shall be performed."

Then answered Esther again: "My petition and my request is: If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to-morrow as the king hath said."

Then went forth Haman that day joyful and with a glad heart, and when he came home he sent and called for his friends and his wife, and told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. "Yet," said he, "all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate." Then said his wife and all his friends unto him: "Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to-morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon; then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet." And the thing pleased Haman, and he caused the gallows to be made.

Now it came to pass that on that night the king could not sleep, and he commanded his servants to bring him the book of records, and they were read before him. And it was found written how Mordecai had told him of the two chamberlains who sought to lay hands upon the king. And the king said: "What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this?" Then said the king's servants, who waited on him: "There is nothing done for him."

Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house to speak unto the king, to hang Mordecai on the gallows which he had prepared for him. So when they said, "Behold, Haman standeth in the court," the king commanded that he should come in. And Ahasuerus said unto him: "What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?" Now Haman thought in his heart: "To whom would the king delight to do honour more than myself?" And Haman answered the king: "For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, let the royal apparel be brought which the king weareth, and the horse which he rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head. And let this apparel and horse be delivered to one of the king's most noble princes, that they may clothe the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.'"

Then the king said to Haman: "Make haste,

and take the apparel, and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, who sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken." Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai and brought him on horseback through the city, and proclaimed before him: "Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour." And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house mourning, having his head covered. And Haman told his wife and his friends everything that had happened to him. Then said the wise men and his wife: "If Mordecai be one of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him."

And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains and hurried to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared. So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. And the king said again unto Esther on the second day: "What is thy petition, Queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee; and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom." Then Esther answered and said: "If I have found favour in thy sight, O King, and if it please thee, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. And if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue." Then the king

Ahasuerus answered: "Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?" And Esther said: "The adversary and the enemy is this wicked Haman."

Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. And the king arose from the banquet of wine in his wrath and went into the palace garden, and when he returned unto the place of the banquet, one of the chamberlains said before the king: "Behold, the gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman." Then the king said: "Hang him thereon."

So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai. Then King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the Jews' enemy, unto Esther, and he took off his ring, which he had taken back from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

Then Esther spake yet again to the king, and fell down at his feet, and begged him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman, which he had planned against the Jews. "For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come upon my people? or how can I endure the destruction of my kindred?" Then Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen, and Mordecai the Jew: "Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name and seal it with the king's ring; for the writing

which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man alter."

And the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, and to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish all the power that would have attacked them, and to take the spoil of them. So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hurried and pressed by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan, the palace.

And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king, in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple, and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour. And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them. And Mordecai the Jew was next unto King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his children.

THE STORY OF JOB

THERE was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was perfect, and upright, and one that feared God, and avoided evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she-asses, and a very great household, so that he was the greatest of all the men in the East.

And lest his children had sinned in their hearts against God, Job rose up early in the morning and offered burnt sacrifices according to the number of them all. Thus did Job continually.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord; and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan: "Whence comest thou?" And Satan answered: "From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." And the Lord said: "Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and avoideth evil?" Then Satan answered: "Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not Thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the

work of his hands, and his wealth is increased in the land. But put forth Thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse Thee to Thy face."

And the Lord said unto Satan: "Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand."

So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

And there was a day when the sons and daughters of Job were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house. And there came a messenger unto Job and said: "The oxen were ploughing, and the asses feeding beside them, and thine enemy fell upon them, and took them away. Yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword, and I only am escaped alone to tell thee." While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said: "The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee." While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said: "The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword, and I only am escaped alone to tell thee." While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said: "Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, and behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they

are dead, and I only am escaped alone to tell thee."

Then Job arose, and tore his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell upon the ground, and worshipped, and said: "Naked came I out of the earth, and naked shall I return thither. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord; and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto him: "Hast thou considered My servant Job, and how he still holdeth fast his righteousness, though thou movedst Me against him, to destroy him without cause?" And Satan answered: "Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth Thy hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse Thee to Thy face." And the Lord said: "Behold, he is in thy hand; but save his life."

So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. And Job sat down among the ashes. Then said his wife unto him: "Dost thou still hold to thy righteousness? Curse God, and die." But he said unto her: "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What! shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this did Job not sin with his lips.

Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came

every one from his own place: Eliphaz, the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite; for they had made appointment together to come to mourn with Job and to comfort him. And when they raised their eyes afar off and knew him not, they lifted up their voices and wept; and they tore every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven. So they sat down with Job upon the ground seven days and seven nights; and none spake a word unto him, for they saw that his grief was very great.

After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day, saying: "Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances thereof. For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea. Therefore my words are swallowed up. For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit; the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me." And with many complainings did Job deliver his soul that day. Then Job's three friends reproved him with foolish sayings, and he maintained himself against them. Now Elihu, the son of Barachel, had listened in silence to the words of the old men; and his wrath was kindled against Job because he justified his own righteousness rather than the righteousness of God. Also he was angry with the three friends because they had condemned Job but had not answered his arguments. Therefore he said: "Hearken unto me; I also will show my opinion." Then he declared unto them the justice of God and

His Majesty, bidding Job look round upon His marvellous works.

Then the Lord spake to Job out of the whirlwind, and said: "Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up thy loins like a man, for I will demand of thee, and answer thou Me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding. Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct Him? He that reproveth God, let him answer it."

Then Job answered the Lord and said: "Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer Thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken, but I will not answer: yea, twice, but I will proceed no further."

Then answered the Lord unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said: "Wilt thou also question My judgment? Wilt thou condemn Me, that thou mayest be righteous? Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like Him? Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath; and behold every one that is proud and humble him. Look on every one that is proud and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret. Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee."

Then Job answered the Lord and said: "I know that Thou canst do everything and that no thought can be hidden from Thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? Therefore have I spoken what I understood

not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech Thee, and I will speak; I will demand of Thee, and declare Thou unto me. I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth Thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz: "My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends, for ye have not spoken of Me the thing that is right, as My servant Job hath. Now, therefore, take ye seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering, and My servant Job shall pray for you, for him will I accept, lest I deal with you after your folly."

So they went and did as the Lord commanded them, and the Lord accepted Job, and the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends; also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Then came there unto him all his brethren and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house; and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him. Every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning, for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she-asses. And he had also seven sons and

three daughters. And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. After this Job lived an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. So Job died, being old and full of days.

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT

JESUS OF NAZARETH

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

IN a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, in the days of Herod the king, there dwelt a man of the house of David whose name was Joseph. And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from the Emperor Cæsar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And Joseph, with Mary his wife, went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, and all went to be taxed, every one into the city of his fathers. And so it was, that in Bethlehem was born their son Jesus; and they laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel of the Lord said unto them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of

David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the Babe lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host, praising God, and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And when the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another: "Let us now go into Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us."

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them, and they published the tidings abroad.

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

THE WISE MEN OUT OF THE EAST

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying: "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And he gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, and demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said: "In Bethlehem of Judæa. For thus it is written by the prophet:

'And thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the wise men secretly to him and inquired of them diligently what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said: "Go and search diligently for the young Child; and when ye have found Him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship Him also." When they had heard the king the wise men departed; and lo, the star which they had seen in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. And they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him; and they opened their treasures, and presented unto the Babe gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being warned by God in a dream that they should not return unto Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

And when they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying: "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." And Joseph arose, and took the young Child and His mother by night, and departed into Egypt; and was there until the death of Herod; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the

Lord by the prophet: "Out of Egypt have I called My Son."

But when Herod was dead an angel again appeared to Joseph in a dream and bade him return to his own country. And Joseph took the young Child and His mother and came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that the prophecy might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

JOHN THE BAPTIST

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judæa and saying: "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For I am he who was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying: 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."'" And again he said: "There cometh One after me Who is mightier than I, the latchet of Whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose."

And John was clothed in garments of camel's hair, with a leathern girdle about his loins, and he did eat locusts and wild honey.

Then went out to him all Jerusalem, and all Judæa, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized by him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now many Pharisees and Sadducees came with the multitude to his baptism, and he said unto them: "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

The people asked John what they should do,

and he answered: "He that hath two coats, let him give to him that hath none, and he that hath meat, let him do likewise."

Then came publicans to be baptized, and asked also: "Master, what shall we do?" And he said unto them: "Exact no more than that which is appointed you."

The soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying: "And what shall we do?" And he answered: "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages."

Then came Jesus from Nazareth to Jordan, to be baptized by John. But John forbade Him, saying: "I have need to be baptized by Thee, and comest Thou to me?" And Jesus answering, said: "Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." Then John baptized Jesus, and lo, as He went up out of the water the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God, like a dove, descending upon Him; and there came a voice from Heaven, saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."

And it came to pass that Herod, being reproached by John the Baptist, shut him up in prison; and Herodias, his wife, who had a quarrel against John, would have killed him, but she could not; for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man. Now Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee. And the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him; wherefore the king said unto the

damsel: "Ask whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee, even unto the half of my kingdom." And the daughter of Herodias went forth, and said to her mother: "What shall I ask?" And she said: "The head of John the Baptist." And she came in straightway in haste unto the king, saying: "I will that thou give me the head of John the Baptist in a charger."

And the king was exceeding sorry, yet because he had promised, and for their sakes who sat with him, he would not deny her, and immediately he sent and beheaded John in the prison. And his head was brought on a dish, and given to the damsel; and she brought it to her mother.

IN THE TEMPLE

Now when Jesus was twelve years old, Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem, as was their custom every year at the feast of the Passover. And when they had fulfilled the days, they returned, but the Child stayed behind in Jerusalem, and Joseph and His mother knew not of it. But they, supposing Him to be in the company, went a day's journey before they sought for Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances. Then, when they found Him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem.

And it came to pass that, after three days, they found Him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them and asking them questions. And all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

And when His parents saw Him they were amazed, and His mother said unto Him: "Son, why hast Thou thus dealt with us? Behold, Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing." And He made answer: "How is it that ye sought Me? Know ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" And they understood not the saying which He spake unto them. And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them; but His mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

JESUS AND THE MONEY-CHANGERS

Now Jesus went into the Temple of God, and He found those who sold and bought in the Temple, and He made a scourge of small cords and drove them all out, and He overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them who sold doves. "For," He said, "it is written: 'My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.'"

And the blind and the lame came to Jesus in the Temple, and He healed them. And when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things which He did, and the children crying in the Temple, and saying, "Hosanna to the son of David!" they were sore displeased. And they said unto Him: "Hearest thou what these say?" And Jesus answered: "Have ye never read: 'Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise'?"

And there were brought unto Him little children, that He should put His hands on them and pray. And the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And He laid His hands upon them, and blessed them.

JESUS RIDES INTO JERUSALEM

Now it came to pass when they were upon the Mount of Olives that Jesus charged two of His disciples: "Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her. Loose them, and bring them unto Me. And if any man say ought to you, ye shall say: 'The Lord hath need of them'; and straightway he will send them." All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell ye the daughter of Zion, behold thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass." And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and brought the ass and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set Him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees and strewed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying: "Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest!"

And when He was come into Jerusalem, all

the city was moved, saying: "Who is this?" And the multitude said: "This is Jesus the Prophet of Nazareth in Galilee."

THE DISCIPLES

Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two fishermen, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea. And He said unto them: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." And straightway they left their nets and followed Him.

Going on from thence, Jesus saw two other brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed Him.

And after these things Jesus saw Matthew, the son of Alphæus, sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him: "Follow Me." And he arose and followed as Jesus bade.

Now on a day before he was cast into prison, John the Baptist stood with two of his disciples, and looking upon Jesus as He walked, he said: "Behold the Lamb of God." And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and said unto them: "What seek ye?" They said: "Rabbi" (which is, being interpreted, Master), "where dwellest Thou?" He said unto them: "Come and see." They came and saw where He dwelt, and stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

The day following Jesus went forth to Galilee

and found Philip, and said unto him: "Follow Me." Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Then Philip came with joy to Nathaniel and said: "We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." But Nathaniel said: "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip answered: "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to Him, He said: "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile." Nathaniel was surprised, and said: "Whence knowest Thou me?" Jesus answered: "Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee."

Nathaniel answered and said: "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel." Jesus asked him: "Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than these. Verily, verily, I say unto you, hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Other disciples Jesus called unto Him. He chose twelve in all, and gave them power over evil spirits to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness, and all manner of disease. Now the names of the twelve disciples are these: the first Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James, the son of Zebedee, and John, his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphæus, and Lebbæus, whose surname was

Thaddæus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who was to betray Him.

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying: "As ye go, preach, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils. Freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, nor shoes, nor yet staves; for the workman is worthy of his meat. And into whatsoever city ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and there abide until ye go thence. Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in the light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. Fear not them which kill the body. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs on your head are all numbered. Fear ye not, therefore; ye are of more value than many sparrows."

And when Jesus had made an end of commanding his disciples, He departed thence to teach and preach in the cities.

THE MIRACLES

The Marriage in Cana

On the third day after Jesus had chosen His disciples, there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee, and Jesus was called, together with His disciples, and His mother. And when more wine was wanted, the mother of Jesus said unto the servants: "Whatsoever He saith unto thee, do it."

Now there were set there six water-pots of stone, containing two or three firkins[1] apiece, and Jesus said to the servants: "Fill the water-pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. Then said Jesus again: "Draw now, and carry the water unto the governor of the feast." And they carried it. Now, the ruler of the feast knew not whence it came, and when he had tasted the water that was made wine, he called the bridegroom, and said unto him: "It is the custom to set forth good wine at the beginning of the feast, and when men have well drunk, that which is worse is offered to the guests, but thou hast kept the good wine until now."

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and His disciples believed on Him.

Christ stills the Tempest

Now at even Jesus sent away the multitude and entered a ship, and His disciples followed

[1] A firkin equals seven and a half gallons.

Him. And behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea; insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves. But He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow. And His disciples came unto Him, and awoke Him, saying: "Lord, save us, we perish." And He said unto them: "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" Then He arose, and rebuked the winds, and said unto the sea: "Peace, be still." And there was a great calm. Then the men marvelled, saying: "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

He heals Many

Now it came to pass that great multitudes of people followed Jesus from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judæa, and from beyond Jordan. And there came a leper and worshipped him, saying: "Lord, if Thou wilt Thou canst make me clean." And Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, saying: "I will; be thou clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum there came unto Him a centurion, beseeching Him, and saying: "Lord, my servant is dear unto me and he lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented." And Jesus answered: "I will come and heal him." But the centurion said: "Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldst come under my roof; speak the word only and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man of authority, having soldiers under me; and

I say to this man, 'Go,' and he goeth; and to another, 'Come,' and he cometh; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he doeth it." When Jesus heard this He marvelled, and said to them that followed: "Verily, I say unto you that I have not found so much faith, no, not in Israel." And to the centurion He said: "Go thy way, and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee." And the servant was healed in the self-same hour.

After this Jesus entered into Peter's house, and saw Peter's wife's mother lying down, sick of the fever. And He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she arose and waited on them.

When the even was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils; and He cast out the spirits with His word, and healed all that were sick.

And afterward there met Jesus two men possessed with devils, who had their dwelling among the tombs. They had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked apart by them, and the fetters broken in pieces, and no man could tame them. Always, night and day, they were in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting themselves with stones. And no man dared pass that way. And when these men saw Jesus afar off they ran and worshipped Him, and cried with a loud voice, saying: "What have we to do with Thee, Jesus, Thou Son of God? Art Thou come hither to torment us before the time?" And there was a good way off from

them a herd of many swine feeding. So the devils besought Jesus, saying: "If Thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said unto them: "Go." And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine; and behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea. They were about two thousand, and they were choked in the waters. And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told everything. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him the people begged Him that He would depart out of their coasts.

Then Jesus entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into His own city. And while He was speaking with His disciples, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped Him, saying: "My little daughter is even now dead; but come and lay Thy hand upon her, and she shall live." And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did His disciples. And behold, a woman, who had been diseased for twelve years, and had suffered many things from the doctors, and spent all that she had and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, came in the crowd behind Him, and touched His garment. For she said within herself: "If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole." But Jesus turned Him about, and when He saw her He said: "Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole." And she was made whole from that hour.

And when Jesus was come into the ruler's

house, and saw the people lamenting and making a noise, He said unto them: "Why weep ye? The maid is not dead, but sleepeth." And they laughed Him to scorn. But when the people were put forth, He went in, and took the maid by the hand, and she arose and walked; for she was twelve years old. And the fame thereof went abroad in all that land.

And when Jesus departed from thence two blind men followed Him, crying and saying: "Thou son of David, have mercy on us." And when He was come into the house, the blind men came to Him, and Jesus said unto them: "Believe ye that I am able to do this?" And they said unto Him: "Yea, Lord." Then touched He their eyes, saying: "According to your faith be it unto you." And their eyes were opened.

Of the Man who had a Dumb Spirit

And one of the multitude said unto Jesus: "Master, I have brought unto Thee my son, who hath a dumb spirit. And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him; and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away. And I spake to Thy disciples that they should cast him out, and they could not." And they brought the man's son unto Him; and when he saw Jesus straightway the spirit tare him, and he fell on the ground, and wallowed, foaming. And Jesus asked his father, saying: "How long is it ago since this came unto him?" And he said: "From a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the water, to

destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us, and help us." Jesus said unto him: "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him who believeth." And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said, with tears: "Lord, I believe: help Thou mine unbelief." And when Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him: "Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee come out of him, and enter him no more." And the spirit cried, and tare him sore, and came out of him, and he was like one dead, insomuch that many said: "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

The Widow's Only Son

On a certain day Jesus went into the city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and much people. Now when He came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and much people of the city was with her. And when Jesus saw her He had pity on her, and said unto her: "Weep not." And He came and touched the bier, and they that carried it stood still. And He said: "Young man, I say unto thee, Arise." And he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He delivered him to his mother.

The Loaves and Fishes

When tidings were brought to Jesus that John the Baptist was dead He departed into a desert place apart, and the people heard thereof, and followed Him on foot out of the cities. And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with pity toward them, and He healed their sick. And when it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying: "This is a desert place, and the hour is late; send the multitude away that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves food, for they have nothing to eat." But Jesus said unto them: "They need not depart; give ye them to eat." They said unto Him: "Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread? We have here but five loaves, and two fishes." He said: "Bring them hither to Me." And He commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, He blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude, and the two fishes divided He among them all. And they did all eat and were filled; and they took up of the fragments that remained, twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

And it came to pass on another day that Jesus fed about four thousand, with seven loaves and a few small fishes, and they took up of the broken pieces that were left seven baskets.

Christ walks on the Waters

After Jesus had fed the five thousand, He commanded His disciples to get into a ship and go before Him unto the other side. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into a mountain apart to pray, and when the evening was come, He was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with the waves, and He saw His disciples toiling in rowing, for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying: "It is a spirit." And they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus called unto them: "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." And Peter answered Him and said: "Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water." And He said: "Come." And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and, beginning to sink, he cried out: "Lord, save me." And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, saying: "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Jesus, saying: "Of a truth Thou art the Son of God."

Of the Fig Tree

Now in the morning as Jesus was returning to Jerusalem he hungered. And seeing a fig tree in the way He came to it, but found nothing thereon, save leaves only, wherefore He said unto it: "Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever." And presently the fig tree withered away.

The Raising of Lazarus

Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, lay sick in Bethany, and his sisters sent unto Jesus, saying: "Lord, behold, he whom Thou lovest is sick." When Jesus heard that He said: "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." After this Jesus abode two days in the same place where He was; and He said to His disciples: "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." Then said His disciples: "Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well." Then Jesus said unto them plainly: "Lazarus is dead; and I am glad for your sake that I was not there, so that ye may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him." Then said Thomas unto his fellow-disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him." Now, when Jesus came, He found that Lazarus had lain in the grave four days already, for Bethany was about fifteen furlongs distant from Jerusalem. As soon as she heard that Jesus was coming Martha went to meet Him; but

Mary sat still in the house. Then said Martha unto Jesus: "Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know that even now, whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee." Jesus said unto her: "Thy brother shall rise again." Martha said to him: "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus saith unto her: "I am the Resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?" She answered him: "Yea, Lord, I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, Who should come into the world." And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying: "The Master cometh, and calleth for thee." As soon as she heard that, Mary rose quickly and came unto Him. Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met Him.

Now many Jews had come to Mary and Martha to comfort them, and when these saw Mary rise hastily and go out, they followed her, saying: "She goeth unto the grave to weep there."

Then when Mary was come where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying unto Him: "Lord, if Thou hadst been here my brother had not died." When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping that came with her, He groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, and said: "Where have ye laid him?" They said: "Lord, come and see."

Jesus wept. Then said the Jews: "Behold how He loved him." And some of them said: "Could not this Man, Who opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?" Jesus, therefore, again groaning in Himself, came unto the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus bade them remove the stone, and when it was taken away from the place where the dead was laid, He lifted up His eyes, and said: "Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me. And I knew that Thou hearest Me always; but because of the people who stand by I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me." And when He had thus spoken He cried with a loud voice: "Lazarus, come forth." And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes, and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus said unto them: "Loose him, and let him go." Then many of the Jews who came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him from that day.

THE CRUCIFIXION

Now while the multitude followed Jesus the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by craft and put Him to death. And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray Jesus unto them. And he said: "What will ye give me, if I deliver Him unto you?" And they agreed with him for thirty pieces of silver.

And on the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked: "Where wilt Thou that we prepare for Thee to eat the Passover?" And He said: "Go into the city, and there shall meet you a man carrying a pitcher of water: follow him and say unto him: 'The Master saith, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at thy house with My disciples."'" And they did as Jesus had appointed them, and made ready the Passover. And when even was come He sat down with the twelve and took bread and blessed it. And as they ate He said: "Verily I say unto you, one of you shall betray Me." And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say: "Lord, is it I?"

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out unto the Mount of Olives. Then said Jesus unto His disciples: "All ye shall be offended because of Me this night. But after I am risen, I will go before you, into Galilee." Peter said unto Him: "Though all men shall be offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended." Jesus said: "Verily I say unto thee, that this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice." But Peter protested passionately: "Though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee." And likewise said all the disciples.

Then they came to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus withdrew a space from His disciples, taking with Him Peter, James, and John. To these He said: "Tarry ye here and watch." Then He went forward and fell on His face and prayed. Now the three disciples were weary and

they slept. Jesus, coming again, and seeing this, said unto them: "Could ye not watch one hour? Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation."

Jesus knew that the hour had come when He should be betrayed, and while He spake to the three, Judas drew near, together with a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Now Judas had said: "Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is Jesus." Therefore he came to Jesus and said: "Hail, Master!" and kissed Him. And Jesus said unto him: "Friend, wherefore art thou come?" Then certain of the multitude laid hands on Jesus, and took Him. And behold, Peter stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the High Priest, and smote off his ear. But Jesus said unto him: "Put up again thy sword into its place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father in heaven, and He would presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels?" And He touched the servant's ear and healed him. But to the multitude He said: "Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take Me? I sat daily with you teaching in the Temple, and ye laid no hold on Me." Then all the disciples forsook Jesus and fled.

And they that laid hold on Jesus led Him away to the High Priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. And two false witnesses testified against Him. Jesus held

His peace, and the High Priest, seeking to entrap Him, said unto Him: "Art Thou the Christ?" and Jesus said: "I am." Then the High Priest cried unto the people: "Behold, now ye have heard, what think ye?" They answered and said: "He is worthy of death."

Now Peter, together with another disciple, had followed Jesus afar off, and he sat without in the palace, warming himself, and a damsel came unto him, saying: "Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied before them all, saying: "I know not what thou sayest." And he went out into the porch. Then another maid said unto them that were there: "This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied, with an oath: "I do not know the man." And after a while certain that stood by said to Peter: "Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee." Then began he to curse and to swear, saying: "I know not the man." And immediately the cock crew. And Jesus turned and looked upon Peter. Then Peter remembered how that Jesus had said: "Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning was come all the chief priests and elders of the people bound Jesus, and led Him away, and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate, the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying: "Art Thou the King of the Jews?" And Jesus said unto him: "Thou sayest." But when He was accused by the chief priests and elders He answered nothing.

Now at the feast of the Passover the governor used always to release one prisoner, whomsoever the people chose. There was at that time a prisoner Barabbas, a well-known robber and a murderer, and Pilate asked the people: "Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus, Who is called Christ?" They said: "Barabbas." Pilate said unto them: "What then shall I do with Jesus, Who is called Christ?" The people answered: "Let Him be crucified." And the governor said: "Why, what evil hath He done?" But they cried out the more, saying: "Let Him be crucified!" Then, when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying: "I am innocent of the blood of this just person. See ye to it."

Then the soldiers took Jesus into the common hall, and they stripped Him, and put on Him a purple robe. And they plaited a crown of thorns and put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying: "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they took away the purple robe and put His own raiment upon Him, and led Him away to a place called Golgotha, and there they crucified Him.

And they set up over His head His accusation:

THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS

There were two thieves crucified with Him, one on the right hand and another on the left.

And one of them mocked Jesus, saying: "If Thou be Christ, save Thyself and us." But the other rebuked him, saying: "Dost thou not fear God, seeing that we also are condemned? And we, indeed, justly, for we receive the reward of our sins, but this man hath done nothing amiss." And unto Jesus he said: "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." And Jesus said unto him: "Verily I say unto thee, to-day thou shalt be with Me in paradise."

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness all over the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out to God with a loud voice, and after He had cried out He yielded up the ghost.

And behold, the sun was darkened, and the veil of the Temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth quaked and the rocks were rent. And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the dead saints arose and came out of their graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

THE RESURRECTION

Now after Jesus had suffered death on the cross, Joseph of Arimathæa, being a disciple, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, went in boldly unto Pilate and begged that he might take away the body; and Pilate gave him leave. He came, therefore, and also Nicodemus, the same who once had come to Jesus by night, and who now brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes,

about an hundred pound weight. Together they took the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as is the manner of the Jews to bury.

Now in that place there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb which was hewn out of a rock, wherein was never man yet laid. Therefore, because the tomb was near at hand, they laid Jesus in it and rolled a stone unto the door.

The next day was the Sabbath, wherein all rested according to the commandment; but on the morrow Mary Magdalene, and with her, Mary the mother of James, and other women, came early, when it was yet dark, unto the tomb, and lo, the stone had been taken away from the door. Then Mary ran in haste to Peter and to John, and cried: "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid Him."

Then the two disciples hastened to the tomb; but John outran Peter and came first to the sepulchre.

Stooping down and looking in, he saw the linen clothes lying, yet he did not go in. But Simon Peter came following him, and he went boldly into the tomb. He saw the linen clothes in which the body of Jesus had been wrapped, and the napkin that was about His head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then John went in also, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. After these things

the disciples went away again to their own home.

But Mary stood without the tomb weeping; and as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they said unto her: "Woman, why weepest thou?" Then said she: "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him." And when she had thus said she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus said unto her: "Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou?" And she, supposing Him to be the gardener, answered Him: "Sir, if thou hast carried Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said unto her: "Mary." She turned herself and said unto Him: "Master!" Jesus said unto her: "Touch Me not, for I am not yet gone up to My Father; but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I go up unto My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God." So Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

Now, behold, two of the disciples went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And as they went they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, while they were talking together, that Jesus Himself drew near, and went with

them. But their eyes were holden, so that they should not know Him. And He said unto them: "What manner of talk is this that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?" And one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering, said unto Him: "Art Thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?" And He said unto them: "What things?" They answered: "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, Who was a Prophet mighty in word and deed before the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and have crucified Him. But we trusted that it had been He Who should have redeemed Israel; and, besides all this, to-day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, for they went early to the tomb and found not His body. They came saying that they had seen a vision of angels, who said that Jesus was alive. And certain of them who were with us went to the tomb, and found it even so as the women had said, but Him they saw not."

Then Jesus said unto them: "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" Then He explained to them all things concerning Himself. And when they drew nigh to Emmaus He made as though He would have gone farther. But they persuaded Him,

saying: "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. And it came to pass, as He sat at meat with them, He took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him, and He vanished out of their sight.

And they said one to another: "Did not our hearts burn within us as He talked with us by the way, and while He explained to us the things concerning Himself?" The same hour they rose up and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them; and these said: "The Lord is risen, indeed, and hath appeared unto Simon." Then the two disciples told of what they had seen and heard, and how Jesus was known to them in the breaking of bread.

The same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said unto them: "Peace be unto you." And when He had thus spoken, He showed unto them His hands, where the nails had pierced, and His side, where the spear had struck. Then were the disciples glad, when they knew that it was Jesus. Then said Jesus to them: "Peace be unto you. As My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you."

Now, Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. They therefore said unto

him: "We have seen the Lord." But he, doubting, said: "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Again, after eight days, Jesus came to His disciples, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said: "Peace be unto you." Then said He to Thomas: "Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side; and be not faithless, but believing." And Thomas answered and said unto Him: "My Lord and my God." Jesus said unto him: "Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed; blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed."

Yet again a third time Jesus showed Himself to the disciples, at the Sea of Tiberias. There were together Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathaniel of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others. Peter said to the disciples, "I go a-fishing," and they were minded to go also with him. So they went forth together, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. But when morning was come Jesus stood on the shore; but the disciples did not know Him; and He said unto them: "Children, have ye any meat?" They answered Him: "No." And He said unto them: "Cast the net on the right side of the ship and ye shall find." They cast, therefore; and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Then John said

unto Peter, "It is the Lord," and when Peter heard that, he threw his fisher's coat about him and cast himself into the sea. And the other disciples came in a little boat (for they were not far from the land), dragging the net with fishes. As soon as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals, and fish laid thereon, and bread. Jesus said unto them: "Bring some of the fish which ye have now caught." Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three; and although there were so many, yet was not the net broken. Jesus said unto them: "Come and dine." And none of the disciples durst ask Him, "Who art Thou?" knowing it was the Lord. Jesus then took bread and gave to them, and fish likewise.

So when they had dined, Jesus said to Peter: "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these?" Peter said unto Him: "Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee." He said unto him: "Feed My lambs." Again the second time Jesus said: "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?" Peter answered: "Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee." He said unto him: "Feed My sheep." Yet the third time Jesus said unto Peter: "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?" Peter was grieved because Jesus asked the third time, "Lovest thou Me?" and he said: "Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee." Jesus said unto him: "Feed My sheep."

Jesus showed Himself alive to His disciples after His death by many proofs, and was seen

by them forty days. At last, being assembled together with them, He spake to them of the Kingdom of God. And when He had spoken, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, Who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from Mount Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey. And when they were come in, they went up into an upper chamber, and continued in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brethren.

And there are many other things which Jesus did; which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books which should be written.

THE PARABLES

Of the Sower

NOW it came to pass that Jesus went out and sat by the sea-side; and great multitudes were gathered together unto Him, so that He went into a ship and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. And He spake many things unto them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went forth to sow. And when he sowed some seeds fell by the way-side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured them up. Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth; and when the sun was up, they were scorched, and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprung up and choked them, and they yielded no fruit. But others fell upon good ground, and yielded fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Of the Tares and the Wheat

Other parables put He forth unto them, saying: "The Kingdom of Heaven is likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while men slept his enemy came, and sowed tares

among the wheat. So the servants of the house came to him and said: 'Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?' But he said: 'Nay, lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together till the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers: "Gather ye together first the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

Of the Mustard Seed

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: which indeed is the least of all seeds that be in the earth; but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."

Of the Kingdom of Heaven

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field, the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof, goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a merchant-man seeking goodly pearls; who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto

a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind; which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away."

Of the Unjust Servant

Peter came unto Jesus, and said: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?" Jesus said unto him: "I say not unto thee, Until seven times, but, Until seventy times seven. Therefore is the Kingdom of Heaven like unto a certain king who would take account of his servants. And, when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, who owed him ten thousand talents. But, because he was not able to pay, the lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and his children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down and worshipped him, saying: 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.' Then the lord of that servant was moved with pity, and set him free, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out and found one of his fellow-servants who owed him an hundred pence; and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying: 'Pay me what thou owest.' And his fellow-servant fell down at his feet, and begged him, saying: 'Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.' But he would not; but cast him into prison. So when the fellow-servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and

told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him: 'O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: shouldst not thou also have had pity on thy fellow-servant?' And his lord was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him."

Of the Labourers in the Vineyard

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a man who is a householder, who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the market-place. And he said unto them: 'Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right, I will give you.' And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and said unto them: 'Why stand ye here all the day idle?' And they answered: 'Because no man hath hired us.' He said unto them: 'Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.' And when evening was come the lord of the vineyard said unto his steward: 'Call the labourers and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.' And they came who were hired about the eleventh hour, and received every man a penny.

But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it they murmured against the goodman of the house, saying: 'These last have worked but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them and said: 'Friend, I do thee no wrong. Didst thou not agree with me for a penny? Take what is thine, and go thy way; I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil because I am good? So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many may be called, but few chosen.'"

Of the Vineyard

"There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country. And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, so that they might receive the fruits thereof. And the husbandmen took the servants and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again the householder sent other servants more than the first, and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying: 'They will reverence my son.' But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves: 'This is the heir; come, let us kill

him, and let us seize on his inheritance.' And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When, therefore, the lord of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?" The chief priests and elders said unto Jesus: "He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, who shall give up to him the fruits in their season."

Of the Wedding Feast

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a certain king, who made a marriage for his son, and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the feast; and they would not come. The first said: 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it; I pray thee have me excused.' And another said: 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them; I pray thee have me excused.' And another said: 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' Again the king sent forth other servants, saying: 'Tell them who are bidden, behold, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.' But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise; and the rest took his servants, and beat them, and slew them. And when the king heard thereof, he was angry, and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burnt up their cities. Then said he to the servants: 'The

wedding is ready, but they who were bidden were not worthy. Go quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, the halt, and the blind.' The servants said: 'Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.' And the king said to the servants: 'Go ye therefore into the highways and the hedges, and as many as ye shall find, compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.' So these servants went out into the highways, and gathered together as many as they found, both bad and good, and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man who had not on a wedding garment. And he said unto him: 'Friend, how camest thou hither not having a wedding garment?' And the man was speechless. Then said the king to his servants: 'Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Of the Ten Virgins

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto ten virgins, who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them. But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made: 'Behold,

the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.' Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish said unto the wise: 'Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.' But the wise answered: 'Not so; lest there be not enough for us and for you; but go ye rather to them that sell and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and they who were ready went in with him to the marriage, and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying: 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered and said: 'Verily I say unto you, I know you not.'"

Of the Talents

"The Kingdom of Heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. Unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his ability; and straightway departed upon his journey.

"Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made with them another five talents. Likewise he who had received two, he also gained other two. But he who had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

"After a long time the lord of those servants returned. And so he who had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying: 'Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents; behold, I have gained besides them five

other talents more.' And his lord said unto him: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things. Have thou authority over ten cities. Enter thou into the joy of thy lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said: 'Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents; behold, I have gained two other talents besides them.' His lord said unto him: 'Well done, good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things. Be thou also over five cities. Enter thou into the joy of thy lord.'

"Then he who had received the one talent came and said: 'Lord, I knew that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed. And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth. Lo, there thou hast what is thine.' His lord answered and said unto him: 'Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed. Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with interest. Take, therefore, the talent from him, and give it unto him that hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Of the Good Samaritan

Now it came to pass that a certain lawyer stood up and said unto Jesus: "Who is my neighbour?" And Jesus, answering, said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow, when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him: 'Take care of him; and whatever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.' Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him who fell among thieves?" And the lawyer said: "He who showed mercy on him." Then said Jesus unto him: "Go, and do thou likewise."

Of the Prodigal Son

"A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father: 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me.' And he divided unto them his living. And not

many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

"And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he was sent into the fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled himself with the husks which the swine did eat; and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself he said: 'How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger. I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him: "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had pity, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.' But the father said to his servants: 'Bring forth the best robe and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet, and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it: and let us eat and be merry. For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to be merry."

Of Lazarus

"There was a certain rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day. And there was a certain beggar, named Lazarus, who was laid at his gates, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table; moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass that the beggar died, and was carried by angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died and was buried. And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said: 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' And Abraham said: 'Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.'"

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